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WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3 1982

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Hospitals to get more consultants

Hospital consultants will see more patients in future after the Government's decision to accept most of the recommendations of the Short report on medical education and double the number of consultants. Britain has now about 14,000 consultants and 26,000 junior hospital doctors. The Government plans to reverse this by the 1990s. Page 5

Iran releases Andrew Pyke

Iran has released from prison Mr Andrew Pyke, the British businessman held 17 months without trial. He is now staying at the Swedish Embassy in Tehran and hopes to leave the country when formalities are completed later this week. Back page

Leyland strike costs £30m

The future of Leyland's bus and truck factories at Leyland and Chorley is being jeopardized by a 13-day strike which cost the company £30m last month. Mr Ronald Hancock, the chairman, says. Union leaders meet today and workers vote tomorrow on whether to continue the strike. Page 4

Coal subsidies to continue

The Government has given up the hope of abolishing coal subsidies. Outlining the Coal Industry Bill, Mr John Moore, junior energy minister, said that direct subsidies could total up to £941 million over the next two years. Page 13

Labour-SDP hint by Sirs

Labour might have to form a coalition government with the Social Democrats after the next election, Mr William Sirs, the steelworkers' leader, said. He hoped for a Labour victory, but congratulated Mrs Shirley Williams on her return to Parliament as MP for Crosby.

Curb on students

Alarmed at the possibility that universities might become centres of unrest, the Polish military regime has imposed stringent regulations on dons and students, unheard of in Eastern Europe since Stalinist days. Page 6

New archbishop

Father Maurice Couve de Murville, aged 52, senior Roman Catholic chaplain at Cambridge University, is to be installed Archbishop of Birmingham on March 25 Page 10

Painting stolen

Two thieves walked out of the Courtauld Institute, in Bloomsbury, London, with a £300,000 painting and fled into the rush hour in a taxi. The small Breughel was one of the least valuable on show

Armagh bombs

Ulster security forces will attempt today to defuse an estimated 500-600lb of explosives found packed into creamery cans near the village of Camlough, in south Armagh Page 2

Laker buoyant

A buoyant Sir Freddie Laker said that he had raised £60m to end his airline's financial troubles. Bankers, however, appear to think him premature though talks are understood to be progressing satisfactorily Page 13

Bristol deadline

The deadline expires at noon today for the eight players Bristol City must shed if it is to survive. If they refuse to go, the club will fold. Page 17

Focus on Nigeria

How is President Shehu Shagari holding together this 19-state federation two years after the return to civilian rule? From oil and foreign affairs to the green revolution, a 16-page Special Report investigates the prospects and dilemmas facing Africa's richest and most populous nation.

Aslef spurns inquiry and escalates strikes

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

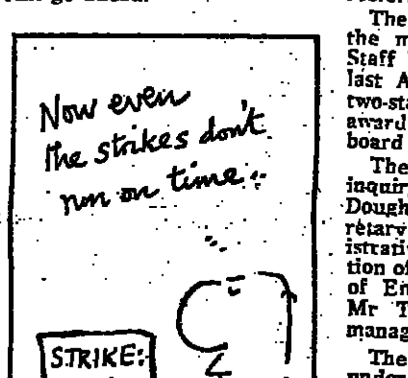
The crisis on the railways deepened dramatically last night when the train drivers union refused to appear before a committee of inquiry and instead announced an escalation of its programme of selective strikes.

Next week, there will be one day strikes on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. British Rail executives believe it will be difficult to run a reasonable service next Wednesday and will decide tomorrow whether to attempt to run one at all. The network will be shut today and tomorrow as the union holds its fourth 48-hour strike.

The seven members of the executive of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen rejected an appeal from Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, to give their evidence to the inquiry, which was set up under the auspices of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

BR, along with the other two unions, the National Union of Railwaymen and the Transport Salaried Staffs Association have agreed to cooperate with the committee of inquiry, which is to be headed by Lord McCarthy and which will sit for the first time this afternoon.

The inquiry, which will reach its decision without evidence from Aslef, is to report possibly by the end of the weekend. Mr Pat Lowry, chairman of Acas, said last night that he had heard Aslef's decision with great regret, but said that the inquiry would still go ahead.



The Aslef executive met for just over two hours before rejecting the inquiry. Mr Ray Buckton, the union's general secretary, said the executive was not prepared to go along with the inquiry's terms of reference, which includes looking at the introduction of the 39-hour week and the productivity understanding on flexible rostering, which is at the centre of the dispute.

He said the executive was very firm that BR should make a 3 per cent payment to Aslef members which was due from the beginning of last month, and the dispute would then be put into the industry's negotiating machinery. The strikes were definitely on and he said the union was not going to "abrogate" negotiating procedures.

The union decided to move away from the current pattern of strikes on Wednesdays and Thursdays to the new tactic to cause greater disruption on the days when there are no strikes. If British Rail decides to attempt to operate a service on Wednesday it would be seriously restricted. Early morning trains would be in the wrong place after Tuesday's strike and then the progressive shut down of the network would start the evening in preparation for the Thursday strike.

When the British Railways Board meets tomorrow it will be under pressure to take strong retaliatory action. It may decide to suspend the 20,000 train drivers on Wednesday or take a more draconian measure such as the suspension of other staff not involved in the dispute.

Moderates and militants on the Aslef executive combined to reject the inquiry proposals. One said: "We've hit the ball into their court, we now have to wait and see what they do". The executive is expecting BR to adopt a tough stance, but moderates made it clear that they could not afford to cooperate with the inquiry because of the backlash it would provoke from their members.

The membership is adamant that the dispute cannot end until the 3 per cent is paid without productivity strings. "We might just get this wrapped up by Christmas", said one executive member.

Mr Clifford Rose, BR's board member for industrial relations, said the Aslef decision shows a clear lack of confidence in their case and lack of consideration for their customers who after all pay their wages at the end of the day. "Let's hope that despite their refusal to cooperate with the inquiry that they are not impervious to commonsense and reason."

BR will continue its policy of not paying the 3 per cent until Aslef indicates that it is prepared to agree to flexible rostering.

The inquiry team comprises the members of the Railway Staff National Tribunal, which last August recommended the two-stage 11 per cent pay award which was the springboard for the current dispute.

The other members of the inquiry are Mr George Doughty, a former general secretary of the Technical Administrative and Supervisory Section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, and Mr Ted Choppen, a former managing director of Esso.

The committee was set up under powers that Acas holds and will be required to report "as a matter of real urgency." Its terms of reference will be "to consider the terms of the 1981 pay and productivity understandings ratified as agreements by the Railway Staffs National Council and, taking into account the agreement to introduce a 39hour week, to make recommendations to resolve the differences over the payment of the further 3 per cent pay increase to footplate grades and over clause (c) of the productivity understanding on flexible rostering and related matters."

Last night Mr Murray said: "Naturally I regret today's decision by the executive council of Aslef, but I still hope that, on reflection, they will find themselves able to use the opportunities opened up by the establishment of the independent committee of inquiry".

And, before Aslef's decision was known, Sir Peter Parker, BR chairman, said that the community had to choose betwee an efficent railway or condemning the system and its workers to a future of frustrating insecurities. "That choice lies at the heart of our present dispute. The board stands firm on its belief that there is a future for the railway but only for an efficient railway".

He said that Freightliner business was down 70 per cent because of the strike and parcels traffic had been reduced by 80 per cent.

Dozier, a sort of embarrassed guy

General James Dozier's 42-day ordeal as a hostage of Italy's Red Brigades was heightened, he told a conference in Vicenza yesterday, by being forced to wear earphones and listen to hard rock music which he dislikes. But he also said "Well, folks you are looking at a sort of embarrassed guy" because he ignored warnings from the Italian police.

All through his captivity he was chained by the left foot and right hand to the central pole of a four-square-yard tent. With the blinds drawn he could not tell night from day. The tent was lit constantly by a 40-watt bulb.

He played cards alone or read books such as George Orwell's "1984" which he had in his hand when police stormed the Padua apartment where he was held.

Press conference, page 6

Dearer money upsets Reagan hopes

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Feb 2

The decision by United States banks to raise their prime lending rates is fueling new fears in the Reagan Administration of another intrest rate spiral which could halt the predicted economic recovery and generate a string of new bankruptcies.

Neither White House officials nor top Treasury Department aides would comment publicly on increases in the prime rate from 15¾ per cent to 16½ per cent, announced by several banks.

Privately, however, officials said increases in the rate banks charge their leading business customers had been expected, which is why the Administration has escalated its attack in the past two weeks against "the erratic policies" of the Federal Reserve Board.

Concern about the effects of the interest rate rise was shared in Europe, where higher interest rates could stifle any hope of an economic upturn.

European markets responded to the American move by marking the dollar up sharply in early trading and in France it broke through the six dollar barrier. There was later a rally by the European currencies and central banks stepped in to make it clear that they did not want European interest rates to rise in step with America. But the big Swiss banks raised short term rates.

In Washington yesterday, before the announced increases in the prime rate, Mr Beryl Sprinkel, Under Secretary of the Treasury, continued the attack on the Federal Reserve, saying the volatile money supply rather than the threat of big deficits was pushing interest rates higher.

Mr Sprinkel, echoing remarks by both President Reagan and Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, said if interest rates continued to climb, the success of the Administration's overall economic programme would be in doubt. But Mr Paul Volcker, the independent chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, has rejected these statements, blaming uncertainty in the financial markets on the "prospects of huge federal deficits".

He said last week that an [illegible] deficit of more than [illegible] (£536,000m) was threatening the economic recovery programme, not the tight monetary policies of the central bank.

Meanwhile, further increases in the prime lending rate are predicted.

Reasons for this include: A sharp rise in short-term interest rates since December; an increase yesterday by three New York banks in the broker loan rate charged to stockbrokers for short-term loans; and the recent, unexpected surge in the money supply which has prompted new fears that the Federal Reserve will tighten credit further, thus pushing up rates.

The prospect of widespread increases in the prime rate has prompted both politicians and businessmen to warn of a big rise in bankruptcies in coming months among small and medium-size businesses.

A group of Democrats in the House of Representatives, for example, has received new information of possible bankrupticies among sizable insurance companies which have made some bad loans. The Democrats, members of the budget and finance committees, declined to name the companies.

There is also concern among bankers of a big rise in bankruptcies among hard-pressed construction companies and smaler manufacturing companies which have been forced to obtain credit in the past year at very high rates.

Fears of another possibly prolonged climb in interest rates prompted Mr Ed Meese, Counsellor to the President, to suggest a meeting between Mr Reagan and Mr Volcker, which could come as early as next week.

Tory revolt cuts sick pay savings by £65m

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

A Conservative backbench revolt in the Commons yesterday sliced £65m from the Government's planned savings for 1983-84.

The Government's economy measure was defeated during the committee stage of the Social Security and Housing Benefits Bill, which transfers payment of statutory sick pay from the state to employers from April next year.

The legislation proposed that employers would become liable for national insurance contributions on the transferred payments, and it was this side-effect which provoked yesterday's Tory revolt.

Mr Richard Shepherd, Conservative MP for Aldridge-Brownhills and leader of the rebellion, said that under the present arrangements employers without occupational sick pay schemes did not pay contributions for absent employees.

According to Department of Social Services figures, employers would have had to pay £35m more in contributions and an additional £15m in surcharge.

An amendment, tabled by Mr Shepherd, wiped out that £50m and, also deleted £15m currently paid for employees who receive full pay when away from work.

The Shepherd amendment was carried by 15 votes to seven, with six of the committee's eight Conservatives voting against their own frontbench. The rebels were Mr Shepherd; Mr Richard Alexander, Newark; Mr Jack Aspinwall, Kingswood; Mr Thomas Benyon, Abingdon; Mr Michael Brown, Brigg and Scunthorpe; and Mrs Sheila Faith, Belper.

Mr Shepherd said last night: "This is a victory for employment and for company liquidity, for the Government was actually proposing to raise an

Continued on back page, col 3

CBI contradicts Cabinet

Employers see no recovery

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Employers' leaders yesterday clashed with the Government over the state of the economy. Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, said: "I see no evidence that the recovery is under way."

In sharp contrast to the optimistic views being expressed by senior Cabinet ministers, the CBI believes that manufacturing output and demand will not rise above its present depressed level before the summer.

Sir Terence, introducing the results of the CBI's latest quarterly trends survey, gave a warning that 42 per cent of companies expected to cut jobs in the next four months. While the rate of increase of unemployment is expected to slow down, the CBI predicts that if the Government persists with its present policies there will be 3,250,000 out of work by the middle of the year.

The CBI's particularly gloomy predictions, based on investigations among 1,700 manufacturing companies, coincided with a call from Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, for a national economic assessment involving a concerted plan of action by Government, trade unions and employers to bring the country back to full employment.

Mr Murray, who was launching the TUC's 1982 economic review, promised a new deal with the Government if it would accept the union's proposed £8,300m state-funded reflationary package.

The CI survey shows that, while there has been a slight increase in business confidence in recent months and a rise in companies' investment intentions, capacity use is unchanged and 93 per cent of firms expect their output to be constrained by a continuing shortage of orders and sales.

Sir Terence added: "The lack of any significant improvement is particularly disappointing for the three million who are unemployed and who are looking to industry for some hope of an upturn. I believe there is a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel but there is still a long way to go."

The survey, regarded as a key indicator of industry's prospects, came as the CBI put its detailed Budget submissions to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, yesterday.

The employers' organization is seeking the injection of about £2,000m into the economy and urge the Government to help industry's competitiveness by cutting the National Insurance surcharge and local authority rates, give greater assistance on energy costs and reduce interest rates.

The CBI believes that single-figure inflation is a long way off and predicts a level of 10 per cent by the end of the year. Even this is dependent, Sir Terence said, on continuing wage restraint and on the pricing policies of nationalized industries.

Profitability in industry appears to be improving, but from unprecedently low levels, and the CBI expects companies' average rate of return to rise this year by only 1 per cent to 3 per cent. Sir Terence said an economic turnround would not occur until industry's real rate of return was higher than real rates of interest.

Investment intentions have become less weak for five successive CBI surveys, he added, confirming that the low point in spending was not far away.

On the vital export front, the survey shows that only a small balance of 6 per cent of companies are more optimistic about their prospects in the coming year and most firms expect the volume of new overseas orders and deliveries to remain static in the next four months.

The main problem facing exporters and cited by 73 per cent of the respondents to the survey is their inability to set more realistic prices on foreign markets, a situation aggravated by the value of the pound and the high level of domestic costs. Sir Terence said: "Our unit labour cost competitiveness, compared with our trading rivals, is still about 35 per cent worse than it was in 1975."

TUC package, page 2
Business Editor, page 15

Economy forecasts compared

Pym stands by his cautious speech

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government was in acute embarrassment yesterday over the gloomy assessment by Mr Francis Pym, who has overall responsibility for the presentation of its policies, about the nation's economic prospects.

It was admitted openly in Government quarters that Mr Pym's speech on Monday night and the prominence some newspapers are giving it, had upset Mrs Margaret Thatcher at a time when she and her senior ministers had been attempting to convey a more optimistic view of the country's economic prospects.

As Mr Pym, Leader of the Commons and Lord President of the Council, expressed surprise at the furore his remarks had caused and denied that the Government was speaking with two voices, Mr Michael Foot gleefully exploited a Heaven-sent opportunity to add to the Cabinet's discomfort by asking Mrs Thatcher whether the speech represented Government policy.

In his speech to the Allied Brewery Trades Association, Mr Pym had ruled out any early reduction in unemployment, forecast a long-term struggle to maintain present living standards, and suggested that public expectations were too high.

Sharp comparisons were immediately drawn with the speech of Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the Commons last Thursday which, although containing a warning that the recovery could be held back by rising American interest rates, nevertheless emphasized in its peroration all the signs of improvement in the economy of which the Government is anxious to make the country aware.

Mr Pym's main sin, in the eyes of Mrs Thatcher, was that he approved the release by Conservative Central Office of extracts of his speech which made little of the good news and much of the bad.

It was explained that the full text of Mr Pym's speech was regarded as less damaging and that Mrs Thatcher was in agreement with its message—that public expectations of rising living standards must be tempered by the changed world economic situation resulting from two oil price explosions.

Mr Pym quickly accepted an invitation yesterday to go on radio to explain his position more fully, a decision that Mrs Thatcher welcomed but did not prompt.

On the BBC's *World at One* programme he insisted that there was no stark contrast between himself and Sir Geoffrey, referring to the Chancellor's speech in Cam-

Continued on back page, col 5

Vice-President Bush in security scare

Mr Bush stoops to enter his car, surrounded by secret service agents.

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, Feb 2

Secret Servicemen and agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation were thrown into a flurry of activity early today when it was feared that a bullet had struck Vice-President George Bush's armoured limousine on his way to the White House. Police helicopters circled and streets were sealed off around the scene of the incident near a construction site in Central Washington before the FBI determined that the object which struck Mr Bush's car was almost certainly not a bullet, but a rock, possibly a stone falling from building work.

Security was unusually tight as the Vice-President arrived at the Capitol. When asked if he knew whether his car had been the target of what the Secret Service and FBI had termed a "projectile", Mr Bush said "No"

The security services were naturally nervous following reports late last year that a Libyan hit squad might be in the United States attempting to assassinate President Reagan or his top aides.

Checking out the trolley

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Grocers are keen to banish two of the most dismally characteristic features of the modern urban landscape: the multi-storey car park and the supermarket trolley. Their researchers have told them that both are ill-suited to modern shopping habits.

The shopper of the 1980s tends to resent car parks with too many levels, and often steals the trolley. Families rely more on their cars for shopping, make fewer shopping trips and buy larger loads on each trip. The route from shop to car often takes them up a cramped concrete staircase which winds in semi-darkness round the shaft of a lift which does not work.

The growth in do-it-yourself decoration, has stimulated demand for convenient means of carrying tools and paints. Supermarket trolleys are ideal for the task, and also make handy incinerators for burning garden rubbish.

J. Sainsbury, the largest supermarket chain in Britain, told local councils yesterday that it would almost certainly reject shop sites which lacked space for large car parks on one level. A new supermarket to be built by Sainsbury's at Islington, north London, will have an outdoor car park on a site occupied by 25-year-old blocks of flats which are to be demolished.

"The things people do in the lifts of multi-storey car parks are beyond understanding", Mr Peter Davis, assistant managing director, said. "We do not think you have to encroach on new country areas to create shopping. There are plenty of urban sites that are not being used."

He conceded that the trolley problem was more forbidding, and that no alternative was in sight. Customers at the company's 250 supermarkets used about 100,000 trolleys which cost about £35 each. They were constantly having to be replaced despite the use of teams of full-time collectors.

"We have had them thrown off the tops of multi-storey car parks", Mr Davis said. "At any market you go to on a Saturday you see stallholders with trolleys 'nicked' from Tesco and ourselves."

Trolley theft is turning into a new form of shoplifting. In the early days of supermarket trading, people stole the goods on the shelves. Now they sometimes pay for the food and steal the trolleys. After a succession of price wars, supermarkets cannot afford to pay staff simply to load customers' purchases into their cars.

While grocery pricing policies have lurched from one gimmick to another, there has been little innovation in trolleys. Baby racks have been introduced, and the original 90-litre trolley has been superseded by larger models better suited to modern shopping expeditions. But the thing remains the same wire cage on awkward wheels of 10 years ago.

The company is experimenting in some southern stores with slot machines which collect 10p from each customer before unlocking a trolley, giving it back when the trolley is pushed onto a special lock in the car park. The experiment has shown that some customers are happy to lose 10p in order to acquire a £35 trolley.

TUC offers £8,300m deal on jobless to Thatcher

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Trade Union leaders are offering Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet a "new deal" involving their cooperation with Government and employers if Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, takes up an £8,300m state-funded *Programme for Recovery*.

Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, yesterday unveiled the TUC's 1982 Economic Review and said the policy document had already been sent to the Treasury. The unions intended to challenge the Chancellor "face to face" with their package proposals.

"But it could also be the basis for a new deal between the Government, the TUC and employers to plan the path back to full employment through a national economic assessment and detailed discussions between unions and management leading to agreement on what needs to be done in individual companies", he said.

Mr Murray's bold political initiative is likely to be greeted with some surprise. The tide of opinion among union leaders is running in favour of an end to all tripartite links with the Government and employers in retaliation against Mr Norman Tebbit's labour law reforms.

The TUC will urge the Chancellor to reflate the economy by pumping in £8,300m state cash to push growth up to 4 per cent in 1982-83, admittedly at the expense of a 1.1 per cent rise in the rate of inflation. *Programme for Recovery* would yield 677,000 new jobs and bring registered unemployed down to just over 2.3 million, it states.

For the first time the TUC has used the Treasury's own economic forecasting model to test the effect of its Budget proposals. "The results are a challenge to the Government", the document argues.

The union package (see table) divides into four roughly equal zones; £2,000m to pay for a reduction in VAT from 15 to 12½ per cent; a similar amount for capital spending in the public sector; £1,700m for manpower, training and education; and £2,600m spread among the National Health Service, pensions, social benefits, and help to both private and public sector industry.

The TUC calculates that £200m is required to enable nationalized industries to avoid big price increases, and a further £750m to increase retirement pensions to the target level of £37 a week for a single person and £60 for a married couple.

As well as making recommendations to the Chancellor on how much he should give away in his Budget, the TUC seeks to demolish three economic theories popularized by ministers; that workers are "pricing themselves out of jobs"; that young people cannot get work because they seek "too high wages"; and that British productivity is greatly improved by the shake-out of jobs.

Programme for Recovery says: "The Government has attempted to pass on the blame for the rise in unemployment by claiming first that workers have been 'pricing themselves out of jobs' and second that many workers are voluntarily unemployed as the level of unemployment benefit is too generous.

"The facts demonstrate that the Government is fundamentally wrong in both these beliefs. Unemployment benefits have fallen as a proportion of take-home pay. And further cuts will reduce demand even further, and lead to higher levels of unemployment.

"It can be proved that workers have not been pricing themselves out of jobs. If it were the case, the pattern of real wages would closely follow the pattern of unemployment—the peaks in real wages would coincide with the peaks in unemployment. In fact, the reverse is true. Real wages have been falling in 1981 and will continue to do so in 1982 and yet unemployment continues to rise."

The TUC also denies that the relatively high level of youth unemployment is due to excessive youth wages. A Department of Employment Survey going back over five years shows that average pay for the under-18s has fallen from 41 to 39 per cent of adult male earnings.

"The report has concluded that variations in youth unemployment do not appear to have any systematic relationship with changes in the relative earnings of young people. Government measures which encourage low youth wages will therefore allow firms to exploit cheap labour without increasing the overall level of employment."

On productivity the TUC says: "The facts do not support the Government's claim that productivity has increased and that firms are 'leaner and fitter'. Evidence presented to the National Economic Development Council shows that this sort of 'recovery' is typical of all recessions because unemployment continues to rise even when output stops falling.

"This does not imply that the manufacturing industry has experienced a lasting improvement; indeed it is now less successful since it is producing less and selling less."

The concluding paragraphs of *Programme for Recovery* make it clear that Mr Murray's plea for a new deal with the Thatcher Administration is basically poached from the policy-making going on between union leaders and the Labour Party. A national economic assessment of the kind offered to the Government yesterday is envisaged in the TUC-Labour Party liaison committee statement, *Economic Issues Facing the Next Labour Government*, as a cornerstone of relationships between the unions and the next Labour Cabinet.

It would involve the unions in decision-making in industry, and in return it offers a form of incomes policy. Arrangements would be established to negotiate pay and conditions for workers whose militancy could affect the health and safety of the community "that would make it unnecessary for them to resort to industrial action".

The TUC's £8,300m Budget package

Programme	Cost for 1982-83
Public sector capital investment	£2,100m
TUC manpower, education and training strategy	£1,700m
Industrial strategy	£600m
Nationalised industries' current spending	£200m
State pensions	£750m
Social benefits	£700m
Additional resources for local authorities	£225m
Additional NHS funding	£60m
Reduction in VAT from 15 to 12.5 per cent	£2,000m
Total budget expansion	£8,300m

Improvement in the economy using the TUC's policies

Economic growth	3.7 per cent higher than on present policies
New jobs	An extra 677,000 jobs would be created or saved
Unemployment	Registered unemployment would fall by 574,000
Investment	Public sector investment would increase by 14 per cent. Private manufacturing investment increases by 6.9 per cent
Personal consumption	Consumption would rise by almost 1 per cent
Exports	Exports of goods and services would be 0.1 per cent higher than on present policies
Imports	Imports would be 0.6 per cent higher than on present policies
Balance of payments	£232m lower than on present policies
Exchange rate	3.9 per cent lower than on present policies
PSBR	£28 million lower than on present policies
Inflation	Rises by 1.1 per cent

100 Irish families flee huge land mine

From Richard Ford
Belfast

A hundred families were evacuated from their homes in the border village of Camlough, south Armagh, last night after the discovery of a land mine believed to contain about 600lb of explosives.

They were found packed into three creamery cans on the Camlough to Newtown Hamilton road, 300 yards from the village. The explosives were primed to be detonated and security forces cordoned off the area.

The land mine was also near St Malachy's Primary School and pupils will not be at lessons today while security forces defuse it.

Across the border the Irish police discovered more hidden explosives yesterday after six successive days of arms and ammunition seizures from border dumps.

The latest haul came as a farmer was remanded in custody in Dublin after a weekend of finds which brought the seizures since January to more than 60,000 rounds of ammunition and 10 rifles. Patrick Corrigan, aged 43, of Kilnageer, Emyvale, co Monaghan, in the republic, was remanded in custody until the end of February on six charges of illegally possessing firearms.

Mr James Mitchell, the republic's Minister of Justice, congratulated the police for work which "should quieten the repeated and totally wrong allegation from Northern Ireland that the republic is a haven for terrorists". Mr Mitchell estimated that the attempt to defeat terrorism was costing the republic £100m a year, not including damage done to tourism.

Police in the republic are reaping the reward in tip-offs of a public backlash against the activities of IRA terrorists after the death of a young man on New Year's Day from wounds received in a "punishment" shooting. Gabriel Murphy, aged 27, an hotel worker, was shot by a group of masked men at his home near Emyvale, the location of many of the arms finds. No one has been charged.

The hauls began on January 17, when between 600 and 700 rounds of ammunition were discovered in the Scotstown area of co Monaghan. The most successful raids have been near Emyvale, a village three miles from the border.

The seizures are a blow to the Provisional IRA terror campaign.

Mrs Bernadette McAliskey, formerly Miss Devlin, is to stand as a candidate in the Dublin North Central constituency of Mr Charles Haughey, leader of Fianna Fail, in the forthcoming general election.

The intervention of the former Westminster MP for mid-Ulster is unlikely to harm Mr Haughey, who polled 17,637 first preference votes last June. That was the highest number recorded for any candidate in the general election.

The list of arms seized recently is as follows:

Jan 17: Scotstown, co Monaghan, 600-700 rounds.

Jan 28: Scotstown, ammunition and an Armalite rifle.

Jan 29: Scotstown area, 450lb of explosive mixture.

Jan 30: Emyvale, co Monaghan, blast bombs, detonators, gelignite and bomb components, including timing devices.

Jan 30: Dundalk, co Louth, seven primed mortar bombs.

Jan 31: Emyvale, 50,000 rounds, seven rifles, including a Lee-Enfield and Armalites and various ingredients for making explosives.

Jan 31: near Clones, on the Monaghan-Fermanagh border, a booby-trap bomb with wires leading to a firing point south of the border.

Feb 1: Emyvale, about 200ft of cortex used to detonate explosives.

Feb 1: Dundalk, seven primed rockets.

Feb 2: Emyvale, 30lb of explosives.

Leading article, Page 9

Peter Trievnor

A Bow Street policeman found picketing peaceful outside the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, yesterday. Members of the orchestra of the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, in evening dress, continued their dispute with the management over their campaign to be treated as an integral part of the company in recognition of their contribution to the ballet's prestige.

Challenges to atomic programme

Nuclear power is too dear, scientists say

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The cheapness of nuclear power, on which the Central Electricity Generating Board has planned to spend more than £15,000m over the next 15 years, was challenged yesterday in the Commons by a group called the Committee for the Study of the Economics of Nuclear Electricity.

The group comprises scientists, economists and environmentalists and includes Sir Kelvin Spencer, who was chief scientist to the former Ministry of Power when the civil nuclear power programme began.

Other members are Professor W. Jeffrey, the mathematician, Mr Colin Sweet, an economist at the Polytechnic of the South Bank, Dr Richard Marshall, of Keele University, Mr Michael Prior, an energy consultant, Dr Peter Bunyard, a founder of *The Ecologist* magazine, and Mr Edward Goldsmith.

They say the figures published by the generating board for electricity costs are wholly misleading because they are biased in favour of nuclear power. The reason lies in the methods used to calculate the costs of power stations.

Two issues play an important part in the analysis. One is a matter of accounting techniques. The other is the poorer than expected performance of almost all the world's atomic stations.

Professor Jeffery says the justification for the nuclear programme has been done on historic, not current, cost accounting. The effects of inflation have been ignored. The differences in capital costs of first-generation Magnox nuclear plants built up to 20 years ago and those of contemporary, coal-fired plants have therefore been made to appear far smaller than in real terms, they are.

With regard to the second generation of AGRs, the study group says: "Such reactors will, on being commissioned, cost the electricity consumer considerably more than if they had never been built".

From past experience the group questions the board's assumptions that new plants will be built on schedule; that their performance will match expectations; and that nuclear fuel costs will remain low while coal costs grow.

Construction costs will overrun by 30 per cent, rather than 17.5 per cent assumed by the board, the study suggests. Real coal costs will remain at 1980 levels until 1986-87, and then increase at 2 per cent a year to the end of the century.

With increases in the costs of reprocessing nuclear waste, the cost of nuclear fuel will double in that period, and then increase by 2 per cent a year.

On that basis, it is argued, future nuclear plant will have a generating cost of 3.27p/KWh, against 2.34p/KWh for new coal-fired plant. The recommendations also call for the large programme of prematurely decommissioning coal-fired stations to be halted.

Ex-boffin recants

By Craig Seton

As the debate about Britain's nuclear programme intensifies, the views of Sir Kelvin Spencer are increasingly quoted. The former chief scientist to the Ministry of Power in the 1950s is now a vehement opponent of the successors to the first generation of nuclear reactors he helped to establish.

Sir Kelvin, at 82, who offers advice and his vast knowledge to groups opposed to the nuclear solution to Britain's energy needs, has become highly critical of the scientists behind the expanding nuclear programme.

Speaking from Branscombe, his home on the Devon coast, Sir Kelvin said: "Scientists should be on tap, not on top", and added that one of the most critical issues facing Britain was the democratic control of high technology.

Sir Kelvin, who was with the Ministry of Power from 1954 until he retired in 1959, confesses that during that period he, too, was caught up in the momentum to exploit nuclear power to generate electricity.

"I did not realize at the time that when we thought we had identified all the hazards we were being grossly arrogant." He is convinced that the more power stations that are built in the world, the greater the likelihood of a devastating accident leading to a massive release of radioactivity.

Britain was proposing to build pressurized water reactors of similar design to the one involved in the accident at Three Mile Island, in Pennsylvania. "Just when the country of origin cannot get any of its own utilities to order them we are considering building them. We really have gone daft in the United Kingdom."

Sir Kelvin's opposition started in earnest when he realized that "things had gone very wrong". Research and development had exposed hazards the scientists had not even thought of, and Britain's second nuclear power programme thus started before operational experience had demonstrated these hazards.

Sir Kelvin Spencer: Reactor hazards not foreseen.

While nuclear waste disposal was of critical concern and still unresolved, the nuclear programme was pushing ahead. "Now I am grateful to help these splendid people who are fighting it", he said.

Sir Kelvin believes Britain should scrap all plans for further nuclear stations and that existing units should be phased out at the end of their natural lives. Instead, he recommends large-scale thermal insulation to reduce energy demand, more investment in coal, and greater reliance on renewable resources, the power of the Sun, wind, wave and geothermal energy.

Of his part in establishing Britain on a path towards greater use of nuclear energy, Sir Kelvin said: "It is one of the biggest tragedies of man that he ever discovered nuclear energy before he could control it".

Cornish site still on short list

From a Staff Reporter
Truro

Luxulyan in Cornwall, the scene last year of an anti-nuclear occupation lasting six months which led to the High Court, is still on the short list of potential sites for a new £1,000m nuclear power station to serve the South-West. Two sites in Dorset are also still being considered.

The Central Electricity Generating Board announced in Truro yesterday that of the five sites it had been examining in Cornwall and Dorset, two of the three in Cornwall were unsuitable.

The assessment of Luxulyan will now continue, with potential sites at Herbury, near Weymouth, and Winfrith Heath, between Weymouth and Poole. An announcement of the site chosen is expected in a few months.

Immediately after the announcement that Gwithian near St Ives and Nancekuke, near Portreath, had been taken off the short list, the Cornwall Anti-Nuclear Alliance (CANA) said it would "fight to the end" to ensure that no nuclear power station would be built anywhere else in the county and would have to consider the means it would use.

The CEGB said yesterday that it was still considering two other alternatives; a third nuclear power station at Hinckley Point near Bridgwater, Somerset, which it does not favour, and a coal-fired station at Insworth Point, near Plymouth, which is considered to be unlikely.

There is some feeling in the South-west that Hinckley Point is still on the board's list of options in case it encounters too much opposition at the other three sites.

The CEGB announced two years ago that it was examining the five sites for a new station and has spent over £1m drilling exploratory bore holes. The proposed new power station, to replace oil and coal-fired stations that are coming to the end of their lives, would be in operation by the mid-1990s.

The board's work at Luxulyan, near St Austell, was halted and delayed for more than six months last year when local antinuclear campaigners occupied the drilling site at Lower Menadue Farm, whose owners were also opposed to the drilling.

The CEGB took Mr John Alderson, the Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall, to the High Court in an attempt to have the local police evict the demonstrators, but its case was rejected.

On appeal Lord Denning also refused to instruct Mr Alderson, but he called the demonstrators "interlopers" and strongly suggested that a way should be found for the board to complete its work.

Yesterday Mr Sam Goddard, systems strategy engineer for the CEGB, said that the sites in Cornwall and Dorset were all in contention and denied that Luxulyan was a clear favourite. Hinkley Point was a possibility but the board preferred a site on the south coast.

After the announcement Mr George Pritchard, CANA's spokesman, said the board was already aware of which site it wanted. He had sworn evidence that it knew the Gwithian site was unsuitable at the time test drilling took place.

He said if Luxulyan was chosen there was always a possibility of a big accident which could affect the whole of the county. "The whole of Cornwall is under a threat", he said. Mrs Doreen Searle, who, with her husband owns Lower Menadue Farm, said she was "shattered" by the news that Luxulyan was still listed.

Science report

Neptune found to have third satellite

By the Staff of "Nature"

A previously unknown third satellite of the planet Neptune has been discovered. The satellite seems to be a mere 100 kilometres in diameter, and appears to travel in an orbit whose diameter is three times that of the planet.

The discovery, based on observations from two neighbouring telescopes in Arizona on May 24 last year, is reported by four astronomers from the University of Arizona, H. J. Reitsema, W. B. Hubbard, L. A. Lebofsky and D. J. Tholen. The Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, at which they are based, has an enviable reputation for the discovery of minor objects in the solar system.

The new satellite of Neptune, as yet unnamed, has not been seen but its existence has been inferred from a simultaneous eight-second interruption of the light reaching the two telescopes, which are six kilometres apart. Such a fleeting signal would undoubtedly have been attributed to an instrumental defect or to some phenomenon nearby if it had not been detected by two independent telescopes.

The night chosen for the observations last May was one in which it had been predicted that Neptune would closely approach an uncatalogued star. Such an observation of a near eclipse of a star by a planet made possible the discovery of the *faint ring* system around the planet Uranus in 1977.

Because of the methane in Neptune's atmosphere, the sunlight which it reflects towards the Earth is bluish in colour. Each of the telescopes was kept pointing at Neptune and the star. And each was fitted with both a red and a blue filter, on the principle that the former would monitor the light from the star and the latter that from the planet.

The light passing through the blue filter seems to have remained essentially unchanged during two hours of observation, but that through the red filters abruptly decreased by about 4 per cent for the same period of eight seconds at each telescope. Brief fluctuations of light output such as this can be detected only with the electronic light detectors now in service.

The explanation put forward for this observation is that although Neptune itself passed to the north of the distant star, a satellite of the planet did fleetingly pass across the disk of the star, cutting off much of the light. The astronomers say that the interruption cannot have been caused by a ring of solid material around Neptune, for then there would have been a second interruption during the two-hour long period of observations.

The chance that the interruption of light was caused by an unknown asteroid has been similarly reduced but not altogether eliminated by observation of the same patch of sky on the succeeding night. Nothing was seen, even though an object 100 km or so across would have been visible if it was travelling more or less at the distance of the asteroid belt.

At the distance of Neptune, however, an object as small as the putative third satellite would be beyond the limits of observations, even with the telescopes with diameters of 1 and 1.5 metres used in Arizona.

A tangible opportunity to confirm the identification of the new satellite of Neptune will come in 1989, when the Voyager 2 spacecraft is planned to reach the planet after an encounter with Uranus. The two known satellites of Neptune, called Triton and Nereid, were first detected by conventional astronomy. Triton is 3,800 kilometres across but Nereid only twice as big as the satellite supposed to be responsible for the observations reported from Arizona. Neptune itself is 50,000 kilometres across and Triton, the inner of the two known satellites of Neptune, is about 7,000 kilometres from the centre of the planet. The new object, therefore, lies closer to Neptune than the other two satellites.

MAN ON INN RAIDS CHARGES

Martin Keith Stratford, aged 22, of Princes Square, Bayswater, London, appeared in court at Banbury, Oxfordshire, yesterday in connexion with raids on two Oxfordshire public houses on Sunday.

He is accused of entering the Jolly Boatman at Kidlington and stealing £1,080, entering the New Inn at Wroxton with intent to steal, and possessing a firearm. He was remanded in custody until Friday. No application for bail was made.

Overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 22; Bahrain BD 0.650; Belgium B Frs 40; Canada $2.50; Canaries Pes 125; Cyprus 550 mils; Denmark Dkr 7.00; Dubai Dh 7.00; Finland Mkk 7.00; France Frs 7.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 60; Holland Gl 3.25; Iran IR 135; Irish 0.500; Italy L 1800; Jordan LS 0.425; Kuwait KD 0.450; Lebanon LL 4.00; Luxembourg Lf 35; Madeira Esc 75; Malta 30c; Morocco Dir 7.00; Norway Kr 7.00; Oman OR 0.700; Pakistan Rps 12; Portugal Esc 90; Qatar OR 7.00; Saudi Arabia SR 4.50; Singapore $5.00; Spain Pes 120; Sweden Skr 8.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Syria LS 5.50; Tunisia Din 0.600; USA $1.50; UAE Dh 7.00; Yugoslavia Din 80.

Government accused of vetoing oil 'bargain'

By Our Political Editor

The Government was accused yesterday of neglecting the national interest by vetoing "for ideological reasons" the purchase at a bargain price by the British National Oil Corporation of a valuable North Sea oil interest.

The charge was made in the Commons standing committee examining the Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Bill, which will transfer North Sea oil production to the private sector.

Mr Edward Rowlands, an opposition spokesman on energy, referring to Labour fears that foreign interests might take control of the new company, Britoil, in which the Government will have only a minority holding, cited what he called "the scandal of the Santa Fe concession".

The reference was to the purchase by the Kuwaiti national oil company of a part interest in a North Sea exploration group which BNOC in 1980 sought government permission to buy. They were refused by Mr David Howell, then Secretary of State for Energy, "with very much regret", although he said he was conscious of the potential benefits which the deal might bring.

The Times has seen copies of letters between Mr Howell and Mr Ronald Utiger, former chairman of BNOC, which show that BNOC wanted government clearance before clinching an offer by an American company, Santa Fe, to sell half of its 22.5 per cent interest in the Halibut Group.

BNOC was the operator for the group, but had only a 24 per cent stake. The United Kingdom share of the group was only 35 per cent, Mr Utiger explained. "I believe that both from the commercial point of view and given the chance of increasing by a small amount the British share of reserves, we should pursue this opportunity", he wrote.

The purchase would cost not more than £7m to £10m, for which the cash could be found within the existing budget of the highly profitable corporation.

Mr Howell's brief reply, a month later, referred vaguely to "certain policy issues" on BNOC which were still to be settled, and said that the corporation's external financing requirement for 1980-81 was causing "certain problems" for the public sector borrowing requirement.

Mr Utiger, writing again, expressed his surprise at those reasons. As for policy issues, he said, any possible option for introducing private capital argued in favour of active development of BNOC's offshore interests.

Mr Howell's second point was "equally difficult to understand", he continued, since the corporation had no external financing requirement for 1980-81 and would be making a substantial contribution to public funds.

Bleak nights at the opera ahead

By Christopher Warman
Arts Correspondent

The Arts Council grant to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, of £9.55m, is an increase of 8.3 per cent, but substantially less than the inflation rate and according to Sir Claus Moser, the opera house chairman, means a bleak future.

The Royal Opera House will have to cut out one new production planned for the coming year, Sir John Tooley, general director, said. Last year it was able to carry forward £700,000 as a result of "being thrifty" and by holding back revivals of *Salome* and *The Rake's Progress* and substituting a cheaper ballet. This year it will have little if anything to carry forward.

Sir John confirmed that the future was "bleak indeed". Wage increases are going to be low, and "we shall have to make even greater effort to remain solvent and still retain the programme and levels of performances. The realitiy is grim."

Mr Trevor Nunn, joint artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, said last week that if its grant was increased by less than 30 per cent the company would not be able to continue on its present scale. It is to receive £3m, an increase of 17.6 per cent.

Sir Kenneth Cork, chairman of the Board of Governors of the RSC, said yesterday that the company might carry on this year, but perhaps not next year. "Someone has got to take the responsibility to ensure we get sufficient grant. Then we will survive."

In the immediate future the RSC's programme will remain intact. The company is not complaining of the cost of the move to the Barbican, and acknowledges that for the first three years costs will be less than they were at the Aldwych. It still casts envious eyes on the National Theatre, however, saying it receives only half its grant but does more work in the year and employs fewer people.

UNIVERSITY CUTS

Bristol University's Senate has approved, by 95 votes to 44, proposals to close the department of architecture and cut the school of education by nearly a half.

DE LOREAN CRISIS 'RISK TO UK JOBS'

Mr Don Concannon, Labour's spokesman on Northern Ireland, said last night that the troubles at the ailing De Lorean car plant could put 3,000 jobs in England in peril. Component suppliers in Sheffield, Bristol, Wolverhampton and Birmingham were among those threatened, he claimed.

He fears that the effects of the Belfast car maker's cash crisis, with 1,100 redundancies looming, could reach the mainland.

However, Mr Concannon was optimistic that the review of the company's financial affairs by government-appointed consultants would show that it still had a future.

The Labour MP for Mansfield, who had been on a fact-finding mission in the province with Mr Michael Foot, met union leaders in Belfast yesterday to discuss the crisis. He said 2,000 companies were directly involved. The 3,000 jobs at stake included some at British Steel, in Sheffield, he said.

His party would support the De Lorean project if the consultants' report showed it to be economically viable.

The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, yesterday urged Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to seek EEC aid for the company.

Death grant 'derisory'

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

A private member's Bill to raise the standard rate of death grant from £30 to £190 and then tie it to annual changes in the retail price index is due for second reading on Friday.

Mr Ernest Ross, Labour MP for Dundee West, and sponsor of the Bill, said yesterday that the death grant was derisory, inadequate and a source of severe anxiety to elderly people.

He accused the Government of dithering over a decision while elderly people were going without proper food and warmth because they were afraid that using their savings would mean they would be buried in a pauper's grave.

A decision on increasing the death grant, which was last raised in 1967, has been expected for some time. The Government has made clear that the case for a higher grant is accepted but that a means test is likely to be introduced when it does go up.

That is firmly resisted by Mr Ross and his supporters in the Dignity in Death Alliance, a coalition of nearly forty organizations.

Mr David Hobman, chairman of the alliance, said yesterday that an official survey suggesting that nine out of ten people could afford to pay for funerals did not reflect the widespread anxiety about funeral costs, particularly among elderly people.

Costs ranged from £350 to more than £600 and the grant was not even sufficient to meet the VAT due on funerals.

Minister backs down on rate grant penalties

By David Walker

The Government yesterday admitted another in its attempts to strengthen control over council spending. Powers will not now be sought to reduce the rate support grant for high-spending councils after their budgets and rate levies have been set.

Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government, said there would be no additional grant reductions for councils failing to meet their spending targets in 1982-83. Councils already know they will lose grants if they spend above a certain level, according to a published scale.

Mr King promised to bring in amendments to clause four of the Local Government Finance (No 2) Bill, now in its committee stage, to ensure that in future any grant penalties will be published well before the beginning of the financial year.

Mr King's amendments are likely to be broadly along lines agreed by the Conservative leaders of the county and district council associations.

Ministers are understood to be pressing councillors and Conservative backbenchers to accept a scheme that would leave the Government with reserve powers to adjust the rate support grant to penalize high-spending councils. These would be known as "differential clawback", a different animal from the "differential holdback", which Mr King says he has now dropped.

The Government's announcement ensures that the controversial Bill will proceed at least a little farther. Mr Robin Squire, Conservative MP for Havering, Hornchurch, and one of the Government's majority of two in committee, praised "a very significant step" towards improved relations between central and local government.

A preliminary reaction from the Association of County Councils was: "We appear to have won the battle". The association has accepted the main part of the Bill, which abolishes councils' powers to levy supplementary rates.

Mr. King said that councils would have no need to raise rates in case of government grant cuts.

However, his plea comes rather late in the day for most councils. Faced with legal uncertainty, they are erring on the side of caution in fixing their rates.

In the Greater London Council fares case the Law Lords implied that a council spending more than government targets and losing grants as a result could lay itself open to legal action. That threat has encouraged the natural caution of treasurers. One senior county treasurer said he had not disabused his councillors of the fear that overspending could land them in jail, even though he believed the threat was far-fetched.

According to a survey of likely rates in the counties — the metropolitan districts and London boroughs make their decisions later this month — threats have not deterred several Labour authorities.

The table shows that the Conservative counties are tending to levy their precepts for 1982-83 at or below the rate of inflation. Labour councils, marked with an asterisk in the table, are planning to spend more.

In Berkshire and Cheshire no party has overall control: that means the precepts may change. Rates in Dyfed will be higher than indicated because of a change in domestic rate relief that applies throughout Wales.

County	Increase over original 1981 82 precept %	Increase over original plus supplementary precept %
Dyfed	8	
Cambridge	5 7	
Somerset	6 9	
Surrey	8 7	
North Yorks	9 6	
Kent	11	
Norfolk	11 8	
Hants	12	
East Sussex	13 8	
Cleveland*	16	7
Lancs*	20	5-6
Cheshire*	26-29	about 22
Berks	35 40	
Avon*	41	30.5
West Yorks*	66	74.5
Merseyside*	79	52

*—Labour Party control

Medal for coxswain hero in 13hr rescue

Mr Alexander Gilchrist, coxswain of the Cambeltown lifeboat in Argyll, has been awarded the Royal National Life-boat Institution's silver medal for his part in the 13-hour rescue of the crew of the Erlo Hills, which ran ashore off Rathlin Island, near the Irish coast, last October.

When the lifeboat reached the trawler the coxswain passed a towline to her from the coaster Caol Mor, which was also on the scene, in the teeth of a force nine gale.

Once the trawler was pulled clear, the Caol Mor left, and the lifeboat stayed to escort the Erlo Hills back to Campbeltown.

However, the trawler's engine failed and she began drifting back to shore. The English skipper would not let the lifeboat take off the Spanish crew, so Mr Gilchrist got another towrope on board the Erlo Hills.

With the lifeboat unable to pull the trawler clear, and both boats being savaged by 15-ft waves, the trawler's crew would still not abandon ship, and the Caol Mor was called back.

Meanwhile, the lifeboat had released the towrope because it was in danger of capsizing. But the time the Caol Mor returned, the trawler skipper had been in radio contact with the owners. But the crew refused for two hours to pass a tow rope to the lifeboat, and the Caol Mor left.

Finally, the skipper radioed that he would obey the lifeboat's instructions and the Caol Mor returned. In waves 25-ft high the lifeboat four times passed a tow rope between the two ships, but each time it snapped. After two hours the Caol Mor had to leave as her fuel was dangerously low.

The Erlo Hills's skipper was now prepared to abandon ship, and Mr Gilchrist made six approaches alongside the trawler, and, according to the RNLI, the reluctant crew had to be dragged on to the lifeboat.

Yesterday Mr Gilchrist, aged 39, of Kilkerran Road, Campbeltown, said: "We could have done the job with a lot less danger if the whole thing had been more easily settled salvage-wise."

THINK HARD, BREMNER JURY TOLD

Mr Billy Bremner, the former Leeds and Scotland footballer, was being accused by the *Sunday People* of three offences of corruption for each of which he would be liable at a criminal trial to two years' imprisonment, Mr Justice Bristow said in the High Court yesterday.

"What you are dealing with, therefore, is no mere triviality", he told the jury. "You will no doubt think long and hard before you find Billy Bremner guilty of corruption."

The judge was summing up on the sixth day of Mr Bremner's libel action claiming damages against the *Sunday People* and Danny Hegan, the former Wolverhampton Wanderers player.

Mr Bremner claims that bribery allegations made by Mr Hegan in an article which appered in September, 1977, forced him to end his playing career.

The publishers, Odhams Newspapers, and Mr Hegan deny libel and say the allegations were true.

The judge told the jury that the fact that a man was a brilliant footballer did not necessarily mean he was honest. "On the other hand, you may think the fact that he behaved badly on the field — he questioned the referee, was sent off three times in all those years, and is said to have desgraced the image of football by taking his shirt off during a charity shield match — does not necessarily mean he would attempt to bribe other players."

Inquiry into SAS man in coma

From Our Correspondent
Ludlow

Three medical experts began an inquiry yesterday into the case of Mr David Woodhouse, the part-time member of the Special Air Service Regiment, who has been in a coma since last May, when an operation for appendicitis went wrong.

The experts, appointed on the recommendation of the Royal College of Surgeons, are Professor J. P. Payne, director of the college's research department of anaesthetics, Dr E. A. Cooper, consultant anaesthetist with Newcastle upon Tyne area health authority, and Mr Peter Lord, a member of the college council.

The Hereford and Worcester area health authority said the inquiry is expected to take several weeks.

Mr Woodhouse, aged 27 and the father of four small daughters, lived in the village of Fownhope near Hereford. It is understood that his condition was caused by confusion during the administration of an anaesthetic at Hereford County Hospital.

The inquiry was *set up on* the advice of Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister for Health, who decided not to hold a government inquiry into the case. Attempts to hold a local inquiry have failed because the Medical Defence Union, an insurance body representing the interests of doctors, had refused to allow its members to cooperate.

Meeting on new TV channel schedules

By Kenneth Gosling

Independent television producers, some of whom are unhappy about the lack of information concerning the schedules of Channel Four, are to air their views at a meeting with officials of the channel in London today.

Mr Michael Peacock, chairman of the Independent Programme Producers' Association (IPPA), said yesterday that he hoped the meeting would provide more information, adding: "In the course of the next few weeks Channel Four will be making a series of announcements to clear up those matters that are unknown at the moment about their plans.

"It could well be that aspects of these announcements may not please some independents."

Mr Peacock, who heads a company making programmes for the channel, said: "Our purpose is to *maintain a constructive dialogue* between representatives of IPPA and Channel Four and we have had a whole series of meetings trying to persuade the channel that their terms of trade, published early last month, should reflect certain anxieties and considerations.

"In some measure we have succeeded but in others we have been left feeling pretty unhappy."

Time would show who was right, he said. Today's meeting would be the first time the association's membership had had an opportunity to be heard on a number of issues. Some of them, he said, had felt hard done by, but that was bound to happen.

"*It is early days yet and* there are many matters that will become clear as we get to know more about the way Channel Four is building its schedules."

An early draft of the schedule is published in the current edition of *Broadcast* magazine. Channel Four officials emphasize that this is by no means the final shape of programming as it will appear from next November's opening.

However, it shows the likely mix, with programmes beginning at 5.15 pm from Mondays to Fridays and at 2 pm at weekends. Early evenings contain a strong element of education and information as well as ethnic programmes.

From about 9 pm the entertainment content broadens out into films, comedy programmes, drama and music. On Fridays and Saturdays a feature film is scheduled to begin at midnight.

The preliminary schedule includes only two hours of sport, from 6.30 to 7.30 on Sunday evenings and from 8 to 9 pm on Mondays, neither of which would put it into conflict with the other channels.

☐ BBC-made Open University programmes may be shown on Channel Four. Discussions are taking place between the OU and the Channel Four company for space to be found on the channel as early evening OU programmes disappear from BBC2.

'LIFE' FOR BODY IN CAR MURDERER

The killer of a woman whose body lay undiscovered in a car boot for 18 months was jailed for life yesterday.

Keith Lock, aged 33, unemployed, of Woodcote Avenue, Mill Hill, London, was found guilty of murder by a jury at the Central Criminal Court. The knife used by Lock to murder Mrs Christina Pellegrinetti was still embedded in her abdomen when the body was found and it was not possible to remove it.

Lock was also convicted of unlawfully preventing the woman's burial, for which he was given a three-year sentence for possessing a sawn-off shotgun, which he admitted.

He pleaded not guilty both to murdering Mrs Pellegrinetti, a divorced mother of two, at her home in Rowley Way, Boundary Road, West Hampstead, London, in April, 1979, and the burial offence. The body was identified by dental records.

Miss Sally Harwood, a secretary, displaying some of the approved souvenirs yesterday.

Value and taste the aim for papal souvenirs

The Roman Catholic Church yesterday unveiled official souvenirs for the Pope's visit to Britain from May 28 to June 2, which it hopes will help to offset the estimated £6m cost of the trip (John Witherow writes). Ranging from a £1,000 gold watch to balloons, car stickers, badges and plastic carrier bags costing a few pence, the items have all been approved as being tasteful and good value. That means they can bear the official emblem a cross inset with the papal keys, and can be promoted by Roman Catholic churches and shops.

The initial checking of goods was made by International Management Group, the American-based company headed by Mr Mark McCormack which has been called in by the church to handle the commercial side of the six-day visit in return for a 20 per cent share of the revenue. The company and the church have approved about 200 souvenirs and nine publications and expect to have endorsed about 300 items before the visit.

The company has rejected some products thought inappropriate, such as a screwdriver adorned with the Pope's portrait, and has sought to encourage firms employing handicapped craftsmen. As a result disabled people in Sussex are making clocks and wall plaques and a company in the Midlands which employs blind people is producing papal badges. Items on display yesterday included candles, tea towels, urns, pens, ties, T-shirts, plastic flags, a bronze bust, ties, coasters and official portraits. Most bear a portrait of the Pope. Each approved manufacturer will pay a royalty to Papal Visits Ltd to meet the cost of staging open-air Masses and for transport of the papal entourage.

Mgr Ralph Brown, coordinator of the visit, said they had decided to go ahead with promoting the souvenirs after they were besieged with requests from companies for official endorsement. "One of the things we did not want to do was to be associated with things we did not like. The only way we could do that was by indicating there were things we did like", he said.

☐ A warm and friendly welcome to the Pope has been urged by the Evangelical Alliance, a body which represents a substantial part of the Conservative evangelical tradition in Britain (Clifford Longley writes). Evangelicals, who have almost universally adopted that name for themselves rather than "Protestant", are asked by the alliance not to engage in "negative counter-demonstrations" during the visit. They should treat Roman Catholics with "*love, respect and courtesy*".

☐ Organizers of the Pope's visit have withdrawn an application to fell 59 trees in Bellahouston Park, Glasgow, where the Pope is due to celebrate Mass on June 1. The aim was to give people a clearer view, but it lead to protests

Informer 'framed man for police'

From Our Correspondent
York

A police informer told a jury yesterday that he used cannabis grown at a police station to help to convict an innocent man so that a new drug squad officer could make a good impression.

Mr Thomas Dunsmore told York Crown Court that Det Constable Michael Atkins had introduced his friend, Det Constable Ian Davidson, on his first day with Humberside drug squad.

Mr Dunsmore said Constable Atkins wanted Constable Davidson to make an arrest at a Bridlington pop concert that night. "They told me that if I could not find anyone smoking cannabis, I was to sell it to someone".

He said the detectives gave him cannabis from a plant they were growing on a window ledge at Hull central police station.

"I tried to sell the cannabis on three of four occasions but was not successful because the people there just did not smoke", he said.

"Atkins said I had to get something because it was Davidson's first time and he wanted to make a good impression."

Mr Dunsmore said that towards the end of the concert he came across a young man and asked him if he smoked. "He said he had never tried it. I said 'Here, try a piece'. He looked at it and said 'Thanks'. I walked away and nodded to Atkins and Davidson, who grabbed him".

The man, Mr John Walker, a bus driver from Saltburn, was later fined for possessing the drug by Bridlington magistrates, although he denied the offence.

Mr Dunsmore said Constable Davidson later gave him cannabis and LSD for his work.

Earlier Mr Dunsmore told the court that Constable Atkins and another officer had "set him up" to make him become an informer.

He said Constable Atkins and Det Constable Andrew Ablett had planted hashish in his top pocket in a Hull public house and asked him to "do them a favour".

"Atkins wanted me to inform on anyone dealing in cannabis so that he could make the arrest. I did not want anything to do with it, but it was that or getting nicked for possessing cannabis", he said.

Five drugs squad detectives were suspended from duty in November 1979, after allegations by Mr Dunsmore, who had been arrested for burglary. He claims the officers paid him for information leading to drugs convictions with confiscated cannabis, LSD, heroin and cocaine kept at the police station.

The five detectives deny 10 drugs-related offences. The accused are Det Constable Michael Lord, aged 44; Det Constable Philip Riby, aged 31; Constable Davidson, aged 31; Constable Atkins, aged 26, and Constable Ablatt, aged 33.

The trial continues today.

Explain Welsh bugging, Whitelaw to be asked

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Tomorrow night, Mr Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, will be asked to explain what two men driving a white estate car, registration HOV 131W, were doing last month outside the public telephone box in the village of Talysarn, Gwynedd.

Mr Moses Edwards and his wife looked out of their sitting room window and saw two men from the car outside the kiosk. When the men drove off, the Edwards went to the kiosk and removed from it a small radio transmitter, which had been stuck behind the telephone. As they walked back to their home the estate car returned, mounted the pavement to block their path and the two men jumped out and forcibly demanded the return of the device.

Councillors alerted the police, who eventually admitted that the police computer had rejected a request for information about the car because it was protected by a Home Office block.

Local people are convinced the episode was connected with the police search for the holiday home arsonists who have burnt more than 60 properties in the principality. Others, including Mr Dafydd Wigley, president of Plaid Cymru, think that it is part of an MI5 operation mounted in response to a demand from 10 Downing Street after the bombing of a property company in Stratford-on-Avon for whom Mr Denis Thatcher, the Prime Minister's husband acts as consultant.

Mr Wigley is due to meet Mr Whitelaw tomorrow to discuss the matter after his dissatisfaction over written parliamentary replies he has received from the Department of Industry. Mr Wigley concedes there are times when telephone tapping is necessary, but maintains that the Talysarn incident demonstrated a flagrant disregard for accepted practice. "Unless bugging is properly monitored and authorized by Parliament then the secret services can take the law into their own hands. And that is stepping down a slippery slope that we cannot afford to follow", he said.

Actress and Actor of 1981

Film stars of the year: Dee Hepburn, who appeared in "Gregory's Girl", and Jeremy Irons, ("The French Lieutenant's Woman") after receiving their awards for Actress and Actor of 1981, presented by the Variety Club of Great Britain yesterday.

'Stiffen safety fines'

By Frances Gibb

Magistrates have been urged to fine companies more heavily for breaches of health and safety regulations after complaints by the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (Sogat) that the level of fines is "paltry".

A survey in the current issue of *The Magistrate*, the journal of the Magistrates' Association, shows that the average fine imposed on companies for breaches of the Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974, over four successive years was between 10 and 16 per cent of the maximum fine.

In 1979 the average fine imposed was £165.90, in 1978 £142.41 and in 1977 £106.69, with all those years the maximum fine was £1,000. In 1976, when the maximum was £400, the average imposed was £99.42.

According to the journal, Lord Hailsham, of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor and the association's president, has expressed sympathy with Sogat's view.

"When breaches of statutory provisions are proved, realistic penalties must be imposed", the journal says. "If the magistracy is to retain its credibility it must come to grips with legislation of this kind . . . and must impose penalties in keeping with what Parliament clearly envisages"

Figures supplied by Sogat show that among its 200,000 membership there is an average of six deaths a year. Paltry fines devalue the work of those striving to reduce occupational hazards, the journal says. "It is fundamentally essential that in respect of such breaches, the negligence of employers to meet their statutory responsibilities should be realistically penalized."

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Skinhead 'wolves' sentenced

Judge Ward, sitting at Southend Crown Court yesterday, described an incident when four Indians were chased by 40 skinheads as "a hideous, monstrous, cowardly and racialist attack by a pack of wolves". (Our Southend Correspondent writes).

A schoolboy aged 14, and Nathan Pritchard, aged 17, unemployed, of Surrey Road, Bletchley, were both given four years' detention after pleading guilty to robbing an Indian restaurant chef.

Mr Guy Whitburn, for the prosecution, said that on the Spring Bank holiday as the Indians walked home from work they were confronted by the skinhead youths screaming "Seig Heil".

They were chased by the mob, but the chef, Mr Abdul Garni, aged 50, was tripped by the schoolboy. One youth stood on his neck while the others kicked him unconscious and stole the £150 restaurant takings. Mr Garni's injuries included a broken nose, black eyes and bruises all over his body.

Three other youths, all aged 18, who admitted receiving part of the stolen money, were sent to a detention centre and borstal.

Revenge theory over cell fires

Police and prison officials are investigating a series of cell fires in Albany top security jail, in the Isle of Wight.

Prison officers believe the fire raisers were prisoners angry with fellow inmates who refused to join them in a mass "strike" the previous week when scores of prisoners refused to go to the workshops.

No action over dumped bodies

The Director of Public Prosecutions has recommended that no action be taken over the discovery of two babies' bodies in cardboard boxes at St Woolos Cemetery, Newport, Gwent.

The babies, who died within hours of birth, had been taken to the cemetery from the Royal Gwent Hospital, but were left unburied and discovered among a pile of rubbish two days later.

Dockyard chemicals plea by union

The Ministry of Defence is to be asked for a fuller disclosure of dangerous compounds and chemicals handled at Rosyth dockyard, after the recovery of missing radioactive cobalt there last weekend. It disappeared a year ago inside the top security nuclear dock where Britain's Polaris submarines are refuelled and refitted. The Transport and General Workers' Union is to ask for the details.

106th birthday

Mrs Emma Parkes celebrated her 106th birthday in the Moorlands Home for the Elderly at Bingham, Nottinghamshire, yesterday. Among 100 guests were her son George, aged 83, 16 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

PARLIAMENT February 2 1982

Thatcher rejects TUC proposal as irresponsible

COMMONS

Last night's speech on the economy by Mr Francis Pym, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the Commons, was described as excellent by Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, when she was challenged about it by Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition.

It is so good (she added amid laughter) that I might have written it myself.

The exchanges began when Mr **Archibald Hamilton** (Epsom and Ewell, C) asked Mrs Thatcher what she thought of the irresponsible reflationry call by the TUC for a massive £8,300m injection into the economy.

Mrs Thatcher: An injection of such an amount would be totally irresponsible but people never say where it is coming from.

Mr Foot: It would be wiser to study the TUC document before trying to pronounce upon it. Meantime can she comment on the remarkable speech by Mr Pym last night? Was that an official statement of Government policy? Were the figures on which he based his speech before the Cabinet last week, and is this why Mrs Thatcher regarded it as an excellent Cabinet?

Mrs Thatcher: I am delighted to respond. Mr Pym made an excellent speech last night, so good that I wish to quote from it.

"This Government is completely committed to long-term economic recovery which can be sustained, and a restoration of our ability to compete with and beat our overseas rivals.

"The Conservative Party has never shrunk from such challenges in the past. We are facing up to them now."

Mrs Thatcher then commented: Very good. And she continued by quoting Mr Pym as saying that the work ethic of the 1990s, whatever it may be, must be based on our competitiveness and our ability to produce the right goods at the right price for the right markets. This is the only basis on which governments, managements and trade unions can realistically seek to create new employment opportunities."

It is so good, I might have written it myself.

Mr Foot: Did she write the other part of the speech which she has not quoted and which says there will be no early reduction in unemployment and that living standards are bound to fall indeed the whole part of the speech that led *The Daily Telegraph* to write the headline "Bleak view of economy by Pym". Does she agree with this?

Mrs Thatcher: An increase in output always comes first and a reduction in unemployment follows afterwards, but some time afterwards. If Mr Foot reads the speeches of Mr Denis Healey he will find similar expressions when they had 1.6m unemployed, and there is nothing very new about it. It may be new to him but not to anyone else.

Mr Foot: If she thinks there was nothing new in the speech why does she think *The Daily Telegraph* gave it such prominence?

Mrs Thatcher: Because it was a very good speech.

Dr David Owen (Plymouth, Devonport, SDP): Mr Pym says living standards are bound to fall. When does she think they will rise?

Mrs Thatcher: Living standards will rise only when this country earns it by selling goods and services which people want. I cannot predict precisely when that will be. It will depend on the performance of industry.

Mr Fergus Montgomery (Altrincham and Sale, C): Has Mrs Thatcher read the letter in *The Times* today from the chairman and the secretary of the South Hampshire Social Democrats? They are disillusioned with the SDP and are not renewing their membership. They regard the party as a fraud and a delusion.

Mrs Thatcher: I read the letter and others. What Mr Montgomery says seems to be true, but does not seem to be news, however. I noted that in 120 divisions in the House since the SDP was formed they voted 105 times with the Labour opposition. It is not surprising and shows their true colours.

Owen: Living standards

Montgomery: SDP a fraud

□ It was wrong to say that Britain had become a disaster area because of the economic situation Mrs Thatcher said during questions.

Mr Andrew Faulds (Warley, East, Lab) had asked: In view of the appalling unemployment figures and the general industrial collapse, would she recall today that with my usual prescience and percipience I warned her at the first question time after she entered Downing Street with that misguided Franciscan quotation that she would make Britain a disaster area. Was I right or wrong? (Loud Conservative shouts of "Wrong".)

Mrs Thatcher: Wrong, as usual, and I thank him for giving me the opportunity of saying so.

Minister opposes head-on ban on closed shop

TRADE UNIONS

It was better to enable victims of the closed shop to receive compensation than attempt "at this stage" to make the closed shop unlawful, **Mr Norman Tebbit**, Secretary of State for Employment, said.

He added that a substantial majority of the 130 representations the Government had received on its proposals to change the law on the closed shop endorsed the need to provide greater protection for individual liberties.

Mr Denshore Dover (Chorley, C): Will he confirm that several individuals and organizations did prevail on him to try and give freedom to belong or not to belong to a trade union? If there is an overwhelming vote against the continuance of the closed shop, will he try and take measures to close closed shops forthwith?

Mr Tebbit: I understand the feelings which he and many others express on these matters. However, it is right at this stage at any rate to proceed in a way which makes it possible for those who are injured by the operations of the closed shop to receive compensation rather than to take head-on and attempt to make totally unlawful a practice which has been lawful for a long time.

Mr Greville Jenner (Leicester, West, Lab): Does he agree that his attempt to restrict the effects of the closed shop has no possibility of success, not merely because the unions object to it so fiercely, but because the vast majority of managers who work with closed shop situations much prefer it?

Mr Tebbit: No.

Mr Cyril Smith (Rochdale, L): What is his thinking on the provision that talks about re-registering of closed shops after a five to seven year period, with a percentage vote of members, and so on? Since he personally voted against that in 1980 when some of us voted for it, what has changed his mind between 1980 and 1982?

Mr Tebbit: There is no proposal in my Bill for re-registering the closed shop. There is no requirement to register one.

Mr Eric Varley, chief Opposition spokesman on Employment (Chesterfield, Lab): This misnamed Employment Bill will not create one extra job or prevent one single redundancy. On the contrary, it is likely to create a good deal of conflict in industry and do nothing to restore ecomomic health.

Why does Mr Tebbit not concentrate on what he was appointed to do—create jobs rather than on punishing legislation which will create a great deal of damage?

Mr Tebbit: I understand his feelings to some extent about the title of the Bill. I had thought that perhaps it would have been more appropriate to have called in the Workers' Rights Bill—(Interruptions and Labour protests) but I was persuaded to retain the same title of Employment Bills, for the ease of identification.

As to what he says about my duties, of couse I agree with him. All my energies are dedicatd towards increasing the number of viable jobs.

That is why I support so strongly the Chancellor of the Exchequer's financial strategy which is designed to reduce inflation, to increase the competitiveness of British industry and to recapture jobs which have been lost.

Contrast in justice

Courts tone down riot sentences

By Lucy Hodges

People charged with offences connected with last summer's rioting are being treated more leniently now than offenders were in the first few frenzied days of special riot courts last July.

The evidence, which is at this stage anecdotal, shows a number of acquittals of people charged with serious offences as well as cases being halted by judges and even police officers facing charges as a result of possible fraudulent prosecutions.

Whole the picture is uneven over the country, degence lawyers say that people are now being treated "properly". Mr Ole Hansen, co-director of the Legal Action Group, the lawyers' action body, was concerned about what he called the rough justice being meted out last July. Now, by contrast, he says, evidence is being properly examined and defence cases are being carefully prepared. "The system is now working at its normal pace." A firm of solicitors in south London, who are defending a large number of alleged rioters, said that their acquittal rate for cases in the magistrates' courts is 61 per cent. That statistic surprised them.

Most of the cases going through the courts at present are serious, involving people who pleaded not guilty and elected trial by jury. In two recent cases involving alleged petrol bombers in Southall judges dismissed the charges.

The first case, against Mr Manjit Sehmi, was halted by the judge after Mr John Mackenzie, a Southall solicitor, showed that a police officer's statement contradicted another statement made by the officer in a separate case.

The second case, against Mr Kulbinder Banga, was also dismissed because of conflicting evidence. The police said Mr Banga's right arm had caught fire. The only evidence of fire was on his left arm.

Gloucester Crown Court has been relatively lenient on a gang of petrol bombers. The organizer, a anarchist, pleaded guilty and was sent to borstal, but a second bomber was given a community service order and fined £200. That contrasts with a sentence of three years' prison for a man aged 20 in Manchester. He threw a petrol bomb, which did not ignite, at a police car. A man aged 25 received four years for a similar offence.

There are some charges still outstanding. Twelve people are charged with conspiracy to cause explosions, conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm and with offences under the Explosives Act, 1883.

Bringing charges under that Act requires the fiat of the Attorney General.

The 12 accused, called the Bradford 12, are to appear in a crown court towards the end of April. A big campaign has grown up around that trial, which has come to be seen as political. There have been complaints from lawyers about defendants being kept in custody for months and about the conditions of bail when it was eventually granted.

Bradford was the scene of the most famous court decisions resulting from the rioting when an Asian man, Mr Tarlochan Gata-Aura, successfully appealed against a conviction for threatening behaviour on the ground that he would have to plead guilty, or otherwise he would remain in custody.

Lawyers think there were a number of pleas of that kind in the first few days after the rioting but that that has now stopped.

Tebbit and Pym at one on economy

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, said at question time that he and Mr Francis Pym, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House, were at one in pointing out that there were no slick, easy solutions that would reduce unemployment overnight.

They were at one, he added in pointing out that Britain required to hold down wages and wage costs to improve competitiveness and that this country faced a world recession with a world problem that could only be worsened in Britain by the adoption of the irresponsible policies offered by the Labour Opposition.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) had asked for the latest total number of registered unemployed in the United Kingdom. The figure for May, 1979, and the increase in percentage terms between the two dates.

Mr Tebbit: At January 14 the provisional total number of people registered as unemployed in the UK was 3,071,000. The seasonally adjusted figure, excluding school leavers, was 2,828,900, and the corresponding figure for May, 1979, was 1,312,000. The increase between the two dates was 1,516,900, or 115.6 per cent.

Mr Winnick: These shameful, disgraceful figures illustrate the misery caused to so many people as a result of the Government's policies. All the evidence shows that unemployment will continue to increase, and was that not the clear message of yesterday's speech by Mr Pym?

Mr Tebbit: We feel that in a world where it is clearly seen that almost every industrialized country has been suffering a sharp increase in unemployment is accelerating far faster than in Britain, it is child-like to accuse the Government of having all the blame for these problems.

He had better try to grow up and make some attempt to understand the deep-seated, long-standing problems in British industry which made it more vulnerable to the recession than many other countries.

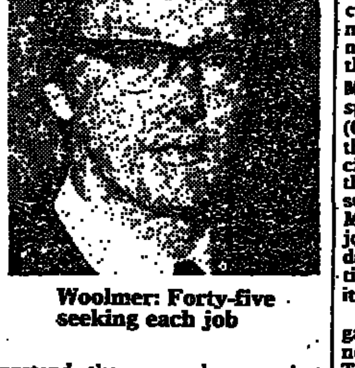
Mr Nigel Forman (Sutton, Carshalton, C): To alleviate some of the most acute problems of unemployment, notably young people, is he prepared to turn his attention to the problem of the long-term unemployed, which seems to many of us to be the most worrying aspect?

Mr Tebbit: This is becoming a serious roblem, to which there is no simple, quick answer. The only answer is to restore the competitiveness of British industry to the position where it can sell goods to its customers and therefore create the new jobs required for those people.

Mr John Grant (Islington, Central, SDP): His mixture of calculated offensiveness and sheer complacency on this issue is nothing but an insult to the three million unemployed. By his attitude he is dragging a great department of state into the political gutter alonside him.

Why is it that when we are moving towards one million long-term unemployed before the end of this year al he can offer are 30,000 places in the community enterprise programme, which the Manpower Services Commission considers quite inadequate?

Mr Tebbit: Jobs are not created by governments; they are created by customers who are willing to buy the goods and services offered. There is no way in which governments can wave a wand in the way that he and his friends pretend they can do now but were unable to do when he was supporting the previous Labour Government.



Woolmer: Forty-five seeking each job

Mr Kenneth Woolmer (Batley and Morley, Lab): In Yorkshire there are over 280,000 unemployed: 45 unemployed people chasing every job. Does he accept any responsibility for the matter under this Government?

If he accepts some resonsibility, what particular changes does he think should come about to bring unemployment down?

Mr Tebbit: I accept the collective responsibility of the Government for the fact that many people have been displaced from jobs in over-manned industries. I take it that he would not suggest that the unemploymnent situation for, say, British Leyland or British Steel would be improved by re-creating the over-manning and reducing the efficiency of the industries concerned.

The proposals I have are that the Government should continue on *its* present strategy and we should take some heart from the fact that short-time working is falling, overtime working increasing, the rate of unemployment is rising more slowly and more jobs are being offered now than they were 12 months ago.

Mr Eric Varley, chief Opposition spokesman on employment (Chesterfield, Lab): Does not all this optimistic talk about vacancies and short-time working and the rest contrast sharply with the sobre analysis given last night by Mr Pym, in which he implied that job prospects and living standards would not improve in the time this Government has left to it?

In view of Mr Pym's propaganda coordinating role, would it not be a good thing if he and Mr Tebbit got together so that at least they could sing the same song?

Mr Tebbit: Mr Pym and I are at one in pointing out that there are no slick, easy solutions that can reduce unemployment overnight. We are at one in pointing out that we require to hold down our wages and wage costs to improve competitiveness and that we face a world recession with a world problem

UK cannot afford luxury of strikes

The number of industrial stoppages recorded by the Department of Employment as beginning in 1980 was 1,330, **Mr David Waddington**, Under Secretary of State for Employment, said. For 1981, the provisional figure was 1,280, the lowest figure for 40 years.

Mr Raymond Whitney (Wycombe, C): These figures indicate the return of, a sense of realism to British industry. It is only if strikes continue to be rejected as a weapon of first resort that we shall be able to achieve a genuine economic recovery.

Mr Waddington: The figures are encouraging, with fewer days lost through strikes in 1981 than in any year since 1976. Clearly, these figures show a greater realism and responsibility and a realization that strikes destroy jobs and are an expensive luxury that we cannot afford.

Mr David Madel (South Bedfordshire, C): is not one of the reasons why there has been a reasonable degree of industrial peace in the past few years that the 1980 Employment Act struck the right balance between management and unions and that both have been operating this carefully and sensibly?

Mr Waddington: When the 1980 Act was going through the House we heard many warlike noises and were told that the result would be conflict in industry. It shows how little the Opposition speak for the working people.

Salvation for church army

HOUSE OF LORDS

The Salvation Army were concerned that a proposed new clause on processions to the Civic Government (Scotland) Bill would adversely affect their freedom to carry on their traditional activities, **Lord Mansfield**, Minister of State, Scottish Office, said when the committee stage of the Bill was resumed.

Lord Ross of Marnock, for the Opposition, had moved the new clause requiring advance notice to be given to district councils by people intending to hold a procession or march. He said that some marches were provocative. This was the era of the protest march. The existing position in Scotland was confusing and it was time there were adequate powers for local authorities to deal with it. He was prepared to accept an amendment proposed by **Lord Mackie of Benshie** (L) to exempt bodies such as the Salvation Army from the requirement to give notice of a procession through the streets.

Lord Mansfield said that preliminary conclusions of a review of the Public Order Act were being reassessed in the light of the findings of the Scarman report on the summer riots. Meanwhile the Government had decided to table new clauses dealing with processions at the report stage which could be reviewed later in the light of the findings of the review of the Act.

The new clause was withdrawn.

The committee stage of the Civic Government (Scotland) Bill was concluded.

Pym on living with high unemployment

Following are extracts from Monday night's speech by Mr Francis Pym, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons, at the Allied Brewery Trades Association annual dinner, issued by Conservative Central Office :

The most dramatic events of recent years affectig the Western economy and our country, have been the two oil price explosions of 1973 and 1979. They altered everything — but the cause and effect are not yet adequately perceived. The fall in world trade was very steep. We all know how deeply the consequential world recession has affected our domestic economy, especially manufacturing industry.

But despite that, there is still too much of a tendency to discuss these changes, and these problems, as if it were somehow possible, if only we were able to find the right policies, to return to the status quo — the status quo, that is, before 1973.

But that is simply not possible. Virtually all of our post-war experience until the 1970s was of a sustained and unprecedented growth in world trade, a growth in which the Westen industrialised nations — and later Japan — had a dominant share. It was cheap energy that fuelled that growth, and made it possible. There is no more cheap energy: cheap energy has gone for good.

What has not gone for good is a disposition to discuss the economic affairs of this country in the language of the 60s, the language of full employment, rising living standards and ever improving social services.

This language and this outlook, was the natural product of increasing wealth, of post-war economic growth, when it was not unreasonable for people to look forward to ever-rising standards of living. And it was not implausible for politicians to base their appeals on such expectations. It was in keeping with that age. But today we have got to rid ourselves of these outlooks and look at economic and social matters in a new light.

To put it bluntly, I think public expectations are to high. The expectations of what Government, or political parties or the country as a whole can achieve, are still too high. Political parties who are reluctant to face up to this reality and who try for their own ends to pretend there is an easy way to satisfy unrealistic expectations, cannot expect to command the respect of the British people.

This government is completely committed to a long-term economic recovery that can be sustained, and a restoration of our ability to compete with, and beat our overseas rivals; but this cannot lead to an early return to full or nearly full employment, or an early improvement in living standards generally.

The simple facts seem to be that our manufacturing industry, on which more than most countries we are heavily reliant, even with our reserves of oil and gas, has undergone a once for all transformation, and a painful one at that. Across whole areas of manufacturing, the loss of a competitive edge has meant the loss of world markets which in some cases it is scarcely possible to see us getting back.

This is expecialy true of the more traditional industries which were, of course, the largest employers of labour. New businesses are growing up all the time, with the help of all the incentives we can give them, and new technology is opening up new opportunities all the time.

But it will be a long time — and no one can say when it will be — before the new industries can hope to replace all the jobs lost by the demise of the old ones. And both new and existing industries are going to have to be very competitive to survive and expand. This is the challenge we as a society face, and it is a mistake to under-estimate the formidable nature of it.

For our part we have responded to the long term consequences of this challenge with a major new initiative on training. We are spending enormous amounts of money on special employment measures to alleviate sme of the problems in the short term and also lay some foundations for the furture. Andwe are still rich enough to be able to sustain large social programmes which blunt the edge of poverty.

But this is a very painful period of transition and I think it would be dishonest to pretend that there is going to be a quick transition towards higher living standards. In the short run, living standards generally can only fall — which is part of the price we are paying for being too complacent in the past. And for some time to come, we shall face a struggle just to hold on to something like our *present* living standards.

What has happened and is happening is that we have entered, almost without recognising it, a second industrial revolution, entirely different from the first which demanded extra manpower on a vast scale. Intensity of labour was its characteristic, and labour was cheap. This second industrial revolution is characterized by a loss of those traditional jobs, also on a vast scale.

And we are only slowly developing the new attitudes which are needed towards this reduction. I do not want to suggest that we have to live with three million or more unemployed for decades to come.

Nobody can forecast unemployment accurately. But we have to find ways of coping with and living with much higher levels of unemployment than we have been used to always before in our history. We need to look at the implications of so enormous a change, and think about how society can best adjust to it. Let nobody think it is going to be easy.

All the emphasis that we may put on training for the new industries, and all the money we may allocate to investing in the new industries, is a vital step. But this will not be enough to give hope to the rising generation unless we can find completely new approaches to the very concept of employment and a job for life.

The Conservative Party has never shrunk from such challenges in the past. We are facing up to them now. For whatever the work ethic of the 1990s may be, it is certain it must be based on our competitiveness; on our ability to produce the right goods at the right price for the right markets. This is the only basis on which governments, management and trade unions can realistically seek to create new employment opportunities.

There is no easy popularity in raising issues of this kind and that is probably one of the reasons why they have not been given much prominence in today's political arguments. My own attempts so far have been quite inadequate. The emergence of a new third political party has made it even more difficult for politicians to invite serious discussion of changes that have such far-reaching implications.

But we ought to face up to them. They are not peculiar to us, but in many ways they are more difficult for us to deal with than most countries.

Britain producing too much coal

ENERGY

The overall view of the coal industry was a worrying picture with the industry producing more coal than its customers wanted — although less than the target which it had set itself in 1974 — and at too high a price, and these trends had to be reversed if the industry was to achieve its full potential, Mr John Moore, Under-Secretary of State for Energy said when moving the second reading of the Coal Industry Bill.

The Bill, which increases the limit on the aggregate amount of borrowing by the National Coal Board and their wholly owned subsidiaries to £4,500m, which might be increased by order to £5,000m, was needed, he said, because of the massive sums involved in the Government's commitment to the industry.

The total of grants to the NCB this financial year would be some £550m — 10 times as much as five years ago under the previous government — which was the equivalent of a subsidy of about £5 for each tonne of deep-mined coal or a subsidy of £27 from each household.

These grants made up only half the board's total external financing, which would be more than £1,100m this year, a massive figure and the highest for any of Britain's nationalized industries.

His department's provisional estimate of total energy demand last year was 316 million tonnes "coal equivalent" compared with 400 million tonnes which was the bottom of the range suggested by the NCB in 1974. That illustrated the enormity of the pattern of change in energy demand in that six year period.

The NCB, like the rest of the energy market, had felt those effects on demands for coal. The crucial industrial market fell by nearly a quarter in two years. The electricity coal market was down 5½ per cent from a year ago.

Those factors had led to the NCB going badly off course in the last two or three years. Domestic sales had fallen, those lost being replaced only by exports which yielded a lower net value at pithead, and total turnover had fallen well short of what was expected.

But not all was gloom. The men and management had achieved productivity improvements and the board had kept to targets set out in the 1979-80 financial strategy. Output per manshift had risen, absenteeism was falling sharply and output had been rising.

Recent improvements in productivity had to be seen against the background of disappointing performance for some years. The effect of productivity gains on the board's finances had been more than offset by the sharp drop in sales, and coal stocks were still rising. At the end of March, 1979, undistributed stocks were 12.1 million tonnes; at the end of this financial year they were likely to be nearer 24 million tonnes. This increase in stocks had to be financed, and had resulted in large increases in the board's needs for working capital, with the inevitable effect on the NCB's interest charges, likely to be more than £360m this year.

The board had not achieved its 1979-80 financial strategy plan to break even on its mining operations this year after taking account of social grants, and operating and deficit grants for 1981-82 would be needed to make good a loss of over £4 per tonne.

While costs were close to planned levels, revenues were well down, reflecting the softening of home demand and the lower revenues per tonne achieved from export sales. Thus, while the board had been able to keep its costs in line with its plan, it had not been able to reduce them to a level consistent with the revenues it was receiving.

Overall, these facts made up a worrying picture. But the Government still believed that Britain's coal industry had a secure and prosperous future, that coal would have a central place in the longer-term energy picture, and that the coal industry had a good prospect of being able to expand its existing markets and win new ones on its own commercial merits.

Mr Alex Eadie, an Opposition spokesman on energy (Midlothian, Lab), said that the miners wanted a modern technological industry which produced the goods. But they had always argued that to achieve that the neglect of a decade and a half could not be remedied in five or six years. Investment had to go into the industry. The Opposition welcomed the increased borrowing limit in the Bill.

Borrowing for capital investment meant paying the going rate of interest, which was 16½ per cent. It was monstrous to suggest that borrowing based on paying interest and which was designed to deal with energy requirements many years ahead was a subsidy.

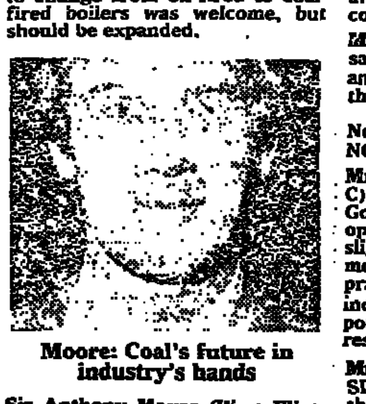
Britain had the lowest production cost and the lowest level of production grants among the European coal industries.

Ten coal producing areas, including Scotland, were showing an increase in productivity compared with last year and this was an illustration, which should have struck the Minister, of how investment paid off.

On the Vale of Belvoir, he said, the delays in the project were reaching proportions where they were becoming a scandal. Already the board had spent more than £2m on the planning inquiry and on consultants' fees. The more one looked at the project the more apparent it became that it would become not so much a coal mine as a gold mine.

The need for a decision was made the more pressing because there were a number of collieries in the area which would be exhausted in the next 10 years.

Mr Jack Dormand (Easington, Lab) said it was incumbent upon the Government to do everything possible to encourage the greater use of coal. The provision of £50m to encourage certain firms to change from oil-fired to coal-fired boilers was welcome, but should be expanded.



Moore: Coal's future in industry's hands

Sir Anthony Meyer (West Flint, C) said under successive governments the Department of Energy had a damaging obsession with short-term and narrow interests.

It was extraordinary that members of a Government which rightly advocated collective western defence against Soviet pressure should apparently see no absurdity in talking in purely British terms about the need on strategic grounds to maintain a British coal industry.

Mr Alan Beith, (Berwick-upon-Tweed, L) said the National Union of Miners was a democratically-run union which had recently decided responsibly to secure the future of its industry rather than to secure wage increases for which they might pay a high price in job losses in the future.

The Bill should not be seen as buying a way out of trouble, but as a temporary measure. It should be part of a package of a more coherent energy policy, with more emphasis on schemes like combined heat and power.

Mr Richard Alexander (Newark, C) said it was time for a new plan for coal, so they could see where the industry was going in the long term. The Government should plan a little further ahead and take a little more businesslike attitude towards the coal industry.

Mr John Hannam (Exeter, C) said increases in productivity came at a time when there was a welcome drop in the number of pit deaths. This contradicted the claim made by Mr Arthur Scargill and the militant left that increased productivity would result in reduced safety standards.

Mr Alan Fitch (Wigan, Lab) welcomed the Bill as necessary and timely. It went a long way towards ensuring the stability of the coal industry in the foreseeable future. The case had been made for a viable coal industry which needed all the protection and encouragement Government could provide.

Mr Trevor Skeet (Bedford, C) said he was amazed at the amount of money being spent by the Government.

Benefits secured from the North Sea went straight into the NCB deficit.

Mr Barry Henderson (East Fife, C) said it was disappointing the Government had not taken the opportunity to loosen, however slightly, the stranglehold of monopoly and restrictive trade practices which prevented this industry from achieving its potential as a key national resourse

Mr Thomas Ellis (Wrexham, SDP) welcomed the Bill an said they could now look forward to realistic pricing. For years the industry had suffered from unrealistic pricing resulting from capricious political intervention ism.

Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton North, C) said the Government should consider a new clause to allow the partial privatization of part of the industry.

There should be powers to enable the Secretary of State to hand over individual coal mines and mining areas to the people who worked within the industry. This had been done with the National Freight Corporation, and seemed to be popular with those who worked for it.

Mr Moore said Britain was the only EEC country which has a major commitment to investment in the future of its coal industry.

British miners were at the top of the industrial wage league but in West Germany were only just over the average industrial wage.

The Bill was read a second time.

Lobbyists' register demanded

MP's BILL

No professional lobbyist should be placed at advantage over ordinary citizens in making representations to Parliament, **Mr Robert Cryer** (Keithley, Lab) said when he successfully sought leave to introduce his Registration of Commercial Lobbying Interests Bill.

He said the Bill would require there to be a public register of organizations which carried out lobbying of Parliament for commercial gain which would be maintained by the House of Commons Commission. It had been argued that such a register would enhance professional lobbyists, but this would also make the threat of de-registration potent.

The position of ordinary people lobbying their MPs would not be impeded or altered, but nobody should be able to buy influence in Westminster or in the machinery of Government.

Some companies claimed they could provide meetings with eminent personalities including cabinet ministers, former British ambassadors, and men at the top of the United Kingdom diplomatic and home Civil Service.

It was suggested some ministers in effect invoked the assistance of lobbyists which, if true, was a dangerous situation. The Bill would require a list of all clients and meetings with ministers and officials to be provided and require a statement of all expenses and commission.

The MPs register of business interests did not require disclosures of fees for acting as advisers. Such additional incomes obtained in this way were unnecessary and demeaning to both MPs and Parliament.

The Bill was read a first time.

£1m milk loss in Wales

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, said in a Commons written reply that he was advised by the Milk Marketing Board that there were no significant milk losses in Wales attributable to adverse weather in December.

As a result of the January blizzards the board estimated that some seven million litres of milk were lost in Wales at an approximate value of £1m.

Why spies keep pension rights

It would not be right to alter the law to enable pension rights to be exchanged for immunity from prosecution, **Lady Young**, Minister for the Civil Service, said during a question on the payment of index-linked pensions to former members of the foreign or other public service who had admitted to acts of treachery and disloyalty but who had not been prosecuted.

Lady Young: As the law stands, civil service and other public service pensions can be forfeited only if a person is convicted of treason, of serious offences under the Official Secrets Acts, or of offences in connexion with their employment which a minister has certified as having been gravely injurious to the state or liable to lead to serious loss of confidence in the public service.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C): Is not an indexed pension, which protects the recipient from the effects of inflation, regarded as a proper acknowledgment of faithful service? It is a little repulsive that people who on their own admission have betrayed their trust and let down their country should be receiving it.

Lady Young: I utterly condemn the activities of those who are involved with acts of treachery. However, and I do not think it would be right to invite Parliament to alter the law to enable pension rights to be exchanged for immunity from prosecution or to allow forfeiture to be imposed without prosecution and conviction in the courts.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter: I accept her statement on the law. Is not the position of someone who has confessed fully to treachery, but who for some reason or other has not been prosecuted, exactly the same as a person who has been successfully prosecuted?

Lady Young: Lord Boyd-Carpenter no doubt has some specific case in mind. If he has some specific case to consider, we must consider the facts that relate to that case. I can only state, to the question that has been asked, the position as it stands under the law.

□ Royal Assent was given to the Civil Aviation (Amendment) Act, the Social Security (Contributions) Act, the Currency Act and the Greater London Council (General Powers) Act.

£150,000 jewel raid

Two armed men snatched jewelry valued at £150,000 yesterday after posing as customs officers to get into a jewellers's home in Hendon, north-west London.

Police investigation

Mr Keith Bridge, Clerk to Humberside Police Authority, said yesterday that another force is investigating allegations of misconduct affecting the Humberside force.

Government will double number of consultants

By Annabel Ferriman Health Services Correspondent

More patients will be seen by hospital consultants in future after the Government's decision yesterday to double the number of consultants by the 1990s, as recommended in the Short Report on medical education.

The report, published last October, recommended fewer junior doctor posts and more hospital consultants. As junior doctor posts become empty, some will be regraded into consultant posts.

There are now about 14,000 consultants in Britain and 26,000 junior hospital doctors. The Government wants two consultants for every junior doctor.

Its immediate aim is a one-to-one ratio by 1988 and to that end the Government has asked regional health authorities to freeze all senior house officer posts.

In its reply to the report, produced by the Social Services Committee chaired by Mrs Renee Short, Labour MP for Wolverhampton North-East, the Government says it is its policy to change the balance between senior and junior staff, partly because patient care is best provided by fully trained doctors and because doctors should not remain in training longer than necessary.

At present the average medical graduate wishing to pursue a hospital career does not become a consultant before he or she is over 37 and has occupied a junior doctor post for more than 13 years, the report says.

Although it has been government policy to change the balance, "the actual achievement of these objectives has so far largely eluded the best endeavours of both the health departments and the profession".

The need to revise the hospital career structure has become more urgent because of the greater number of students coming out of medical school and the fall in the use of overseas doctors.

At one time overseas doctors trained in junior doctor posts and went back to their own countries in their 30s, leaving a reasonable balance between British junior doctors and consultant posts.

The Government rejects two possible solutions from the profession, that of having a sub-consultant grade or two types of consultant.

"While team work and seeking the advice of colleagues are well established traditions, the idea of one consultant having to take an instruction from another is not, and no arrangement involving two tiers of clinically autonomous hospital grades would be likely to prove satisfactory in practice".

The report will please Britain's junior doctors, but consultants will have mixed feelings.

The British Medical Association is split on the subject, with its consultant committee opposed to many of the Short report recommendations and the juniors in favour.

Government Response to the Fourth Report from the Social Services Committee, 1980-81 session, (Command 8479, Stationery Office, £3.05).

Ban on tax cut to save art works expected

By Frances Gibb

The Treasury is expected to reject one of the key proposals of a Commons select committee of MPs for tax concessions designed to prevent the loss of further important works of art abroad.

The proposal was one of several made by the MPs under the chairmanship of Mr Christopher Price, Labour member for Lewisham, West in a report on tax rules governing works of art published last April.

The Government is due to respond to the report shortly. But fears are growing in the art world that Treasury officials intend to reject the recommendation that the Capital Transfer Tax concession on the surrender of an art work in lieu of taxes should be raised from 25 to 75 per cent.

Such an increase would encourage private owners to offer their heirlooms to the nation rather than sell them on the open market and to pay their taxes in kind rather than in cash. Much of the money allocated by the Government for operating the system has not been used.

The purchasing power of American museums, which poses a threat to private collections in this country, is well highlighted in an article in *The Burlington Magazine*.

Mr Edmund Pillsbury, director of the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, announces acquisitions in the past year by the museum of more than a dozen European paintings estimated to be worth $15m (£8m).

The acquisitions, several, of which are published in the article for the first time, include works by Velazquez, Manet, Carracci, Stubbs, Claude and Sickert and span five centuries.

Among the masterpieces are "The Butcher Shop", by Carracci, formerly in the collection of Lord Aberdeen; hitherto unpublished work by the rare Neopolitan master, Bernardo Cavallino, "recently brought to light on the London art market", and a version of "Ennui", by Walter Sickert, in the Tate Gallery.

There is also an important, little-known painted sketch by Benjamin West of the debate in Parliament on the future of the American colonies when William Pitt entered on crutches and fainted.

On West's death it went to a Welsh collector, in whose family it remained until the late 1970s.

The museum is a small example of the increasing wealth of foreign museums which the MPs were aiming to counteract. The biggest threat comes from the J. Paul Getty Museum, Malibu, which has capital of $1,206m and a yearly income of $55m.

After more than five years of legal wrangles, the Getty legacy is expected to be granted probate soon and these funds will come on to the art market.

Taste of freedom: Mr Bulent Ecevit, former Prime Minister of Turkey, leaving an Ankara prison on Monday after serving two months for issuing a press statement.

Banished leader of Copts offers olive branch to Mubarak

From Christopher Walker, Cairo, Feb. 2

The banished spiritual leader of Egypt's minority Coptic community, Pope Shenouda III has sent a private letter to Copts living in America, urging them to provide a warm welcome for President Hosni Mubarak who began his first official visit to Washington today.

A copy of the appeal, written from the desert monastery where the Pope was indefinitely banished last September, has been shown to *The Times* by Mr Muhammad Heikal, the prominent Egyptian journalist who was released from prison on President Mubarak's orders last November.

Dated January 24, handwritten on notepaper embossed with the Coptic seal and headed with a small cross, the letter is regarded as an important gesture of reconcilation to the new Government by the leader of the estimated fine million Egyptian Copts.

It appeared deliberately designed to thwart the type of hostile demonstrations by Copts which greeted President Sadat during his last visit to the American capital in August, 1981.

"Without this intervention by the Pope, one could have expected thousands of Copts to have taken to the streets to protest against his continuing banishment", said Mr Heikal, who is now writing what is likely to be the definitive account of events leading up to President Sadat's assassination. "The gesture is typical of the new mood of calm and reconciliation now in the air".

In the letter, Pope Shenouda reminds his followers that President Mubarak came to power in difficult and complicated circumstances and deserves to be given time to deal with them.

The moderate tone of the letter is seen as evidence that the Government might soon be prepared to lift the order which has kept the Pope under virtual house arrest inside his monastery at Wadi Natroun, between Cairo and Alexandria.

Already a number of the coptic churchmen who were among the victims of Sadat's last purge have been released, as have all the former President's political opponents and many Muslims. There have been strong hints that scores more releases can be expected soon.

One Government official told me that special military precautions still in evidence close to many of Cairo's main public buildings are also scheduled to be consederablyu scaled down. He said that Army street patrols would also be cut back almost to the level of before the assassination.

Describing the changed atmosphere in Cairo and all Egypt's other main towns, Mr Heikal said: "For the first time for many years the country feels that it has a President who is talking to them and not through them. The Muslim fundamentalists and the Christian groups are still around, but the tension has vanished. People feel that all the doors which were previously closed to them are now open."

Mr Heikal, who was one of the closest confidantes of President Nasser, spoke of the conditions under which he and other political opponents of Sadat were held in the notorious El Tora security jail on the outskirts of Cairo. He said that the detainees were kept 10 to a cell which measured only 9ft by 12ft and had one open toilet.

"It was obvious that one aim of the President was to try and humiliate us. For what other reason would you force a man like Fuad Seraggeddin (the former leader of the now dissolved New Wafd Party, who is 77) to sleep on a stone floor with only one blanket?" Mr Heikal told me. "Our only food was almost too revolting to eat and was pushed at us through the bars."

During his ordeal Mr Heikal, former editor-in-chief of *Al Ahram*, lost 24lb in weight and was kept in a ell with two former members of the Egyptian Parliament and seven members of an extreme Muslim group.

He said that his journalistic instinct helped him to survive by enabling him "to treat everything as a witness and not a victim."

Although deprived of any writing materials, he was given permission by Warders to conduct interviews with some of the leading Muslim militants who had been closely connected with the mounting opposition to President Sadat.

On the first night of his return to his office overlooking the Nile, Mr Heikal wrote his recollected conversations on 310 different index cards.

Now free to air his views to foreign reporters, Mr Heikal is not as yet playing any new role in Egyptian politics or journalism. He prefers to describe himself as an observer until he finishes his account of Mr Sadat's last days, provisionally entitled *The Autumn of Fury*.

Palestinian automony problem for America

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Feb 2

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt's visit to Washington this week comes at a time when the United States is still groping for a way to move ahead with the Middle East peace process.

The first phase of the Camp David peace accords — the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai — is virtually complete. American policy makers have heaved a sigh of relief that Israel has finally withdrawn its objections to European participation in the Sinai peacekeeping force.

The next phase, the search for an agreement on Palestinian autonomy, seems to be sinking even deeper into the sands. Senior officials, having abandoned hope of Israel and Egypt reaching agreement before the April 25 Sinai withdrawal deadline, still talk about the chances of making gradual progress in the months ahead.

Privately they concede that the differences between the two sides over their respective definitions of autonomy are as deep as the Red Sea.

During his most recent trip to the Middle East, Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, attempted with some success to ease the tension which had begun to develop between Israel and Egypt and to reassure them of the United States commitment to Camp David.

Israel and Egypt have also pledged their determination to carry out the agreements which were made in 1978, but the pieces of paper which were signed then are beginning to look frayed round the edges.

For the Americans, the unpredictability of Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, remains a source of constant concern. They believe actions such as the annexation of the Golan Heights and the establishment of more settlements on the occupied West Bank not only undermine the peace process but make it more difficult for Egypt to continue to be seen to be dealing with Israel.

On the Egyptian side, President Mubarak remains something of an enigma. American officials like to emphasize that he is committed to the policies initiated by his predecessor. But they also note that he has a mind of his own and that his style is very different from that of Sadat, who was so admired by the American public.

There have been changes both in style and substance in Egyptian leadership since President Mubarak came to power in October. He is less flamboyant and less extravagnt than his predecessor and has made it clear he intends to concentrate on domestic rather than foreign issues.

He has also taken steps to emphasize Egypt's commitment to non-alignment and to demonstrate that Egypt is not a client of the United States. To this end he has started to improve relations with his Arab neighbours, even to the extent of reopening the border with Libya.

He is buying $1,000m (£550m) worth of Mirage fighter bombers from France and is allowing a group of 59 Soviet technicians into Egypt to repair equipment supplied before the 1972 breach in Egyptian-Soviet relations.

American officials say this does not mean Egypt is again going to look to the Soviet Union for help.

The return of the technicians may help President Mubarak achieve what he considers to be the main purpose of his visit: to win American approval for a big increase in military aid and greater flexibility in Egypt's handling of the $1,000m it receives in economic assistance.

It has long been a bone of contention by Egypt that it receives less military assistance than Israel. It argues that it needs larger and speedier supplies of American arms o replace the outdated equipment it was sent by the Soviet Union during the 1960s and 1970s.

Letter from Sylt

Holiday isle under threat from sea

Sylt, with its clifftop promenade lamp-posts and their ornamental globes safely removed and its windows boarded over, is like a ship battened down, tense, for whatever else winter may inflict.

The islanders wonder if the 36-hour gale in November, which pushed the flood tide over the Noesse dyke was only a foretaste of worse to come between now and Easter.

As the west coast along from Wenningstedt so graphically shows, this sliver of land — 26 miles long but only 36 square miles overall and less than a mile across in places — the largest and northernmost of West Germany's North Frisian Islands, is literally a diminishing asset.

The low cliffs of soft red sandstone, moraine and clay, topped by dunes of more recent formation, are being ineluctably eroded by storms and high spring tides, in conjunction with rain and melting snow pouring down from the higher ground. The ragged asphalt edge of the Wenningstedt promenade beyond the safety wall hangs poised to crumble away and follow the black fragments strewn all down the cliff.

The "café-dancing" is given maybe five or six years before it shares the same fate as the photo shop that toppled over the encroaching edge on Christmas Eve, 1965. Next on the list is a stately Danish-style house. Heads are shaken at the temerity of building a new complex of holiday homes behind low dunes 100 yds or so from the cliff. They are given a century at the most, changing hands at declining prices long beforehand.

Awareness of the North Sea's constant menace is everywhere. Five centuries ago, a mere instant of geological time, the island was at least twice its present size, the coast about a mile further west. Ancient maps show all the North Fresians as part of the mainland. The area between Sylt and the coast went under in 1362, part of the far wilder calamity, the "Groten Mandrenke", in which, according to the chroniclers, perhaps 100,000 people perished along Europe's western seaboard.

The most recent disaster on the Schleswig-Holstein coast was 20 years ago (February, 1962) when dykes were breached and 315 people drowned, many around Hamburg, 60 miles up the Elbe. In 1976, the white fury of the sea — *Blanke Hans*, they call it — almost cut Sylt in two, snapping 10-in wooden beams like matchsticks on Wenningstedt's lower promenade. At Westerland, the capital, basalt slabs from the promenade ramp were hurled into the air and the concrete cupola of the bandstand ended up far down the beach.

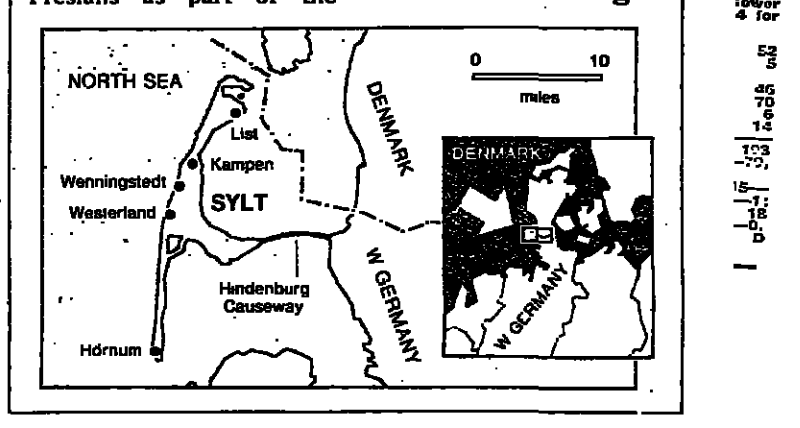
Coastal erosion is the nagging worry for the 20,000 islanders, among them proprietors of the many discreetly expensive mansions whose thatched roofs, in traditional Jutland style, recall the black houses of Scotland's Western Isles.

The current technique for breaking the full force of the North Sea is emplanting submerged artificial sandbanks, out from the Westerland/Wenningstedt area.

But what may eventually be left of Sylt for future generations is less of a current preoccupation, on the whole, than is sustaining the community's defences against the flood of holidaymakers from Easter into September when the car-train services transport thousands of vehicles daily.

"A road along the causeway would be the death of Sylt," says Herr Volker Hoppe, Mayor of Westerland and a key figure in the Coastal Protection Union. "Nobody wants it — none of the visitors wants it either."

Alan McGregor



GPs favour private medicine, survey says

By John Chartres

A substantial majority of family doctors in Britain support private medicine and believe it relieves pressure on the National Health Service rather than harming it, according to a survey conducted by the British United Provident Association (Bupa).

The survey results also claim to show that there has been a substantial swing in political opinion among doctors from the Conservatives to the Social Democratic Party. It was conducted among 400 GPs in Britain, commissioned by Bupa and conducted by Medical Research Factors Ltd.

One finding was that 83 per cent of GPs believed that more people would see their doctors privately if the cost of drugs was the same for everybody, whether NHS or private patients. Bupa claims that the private sector is supported by 72 per cent of doctors.

The figures published in the survey say that doctors, asked whether they agreed with the existence of private dedicine, replied in the following terms: agreed strongly, 33 per cent; agreed, 39 per cent; neither agreed nor disagreed, 15 per cent; disagreed, 7 per cent; disagreed strongly, 5 per cent.

The substantial growth of private hospitals was endorsed by 71 per cent of family doctors, the survey claims, with almost half "very strongly" in favour. The Bupa statement said that many Labour politicians and trake union leaders had claimed that private medicine harmed the health service.

That view, the statement said, had been rejected by doctors, of whom a majority (67 per cent) believed that private treatment relieved the strain on the National Health Service.

The statement also claimed that the result showed that doctors' views were the same as those of the general public, as established by previos independent national opinion polls.

It added that whereas in the last general election 66 per cent of doctors said they had voted Conservative, now 39 per cent say they would support the SDP/Liberal Alliance.

Sarjeant's sentence is upheld

The five-year jail sentence on the teenager who fired blank cartridges from an imitation pistol as the Queen rode past during the Trooping the Colour last June, was upheld by the Court of Appeal in London yesterday.

Marcus Simon Sarjeant, aged 18, a youth opportunities scheme worker, of Old Dover Road, Capel le Ferne, Kent, jailed at the Central Criminal Court on September 14 last for an offence under the Treason Act, 1842, was refused leave to appeal.

Lord Justice Ackner, sitting with Lord Justice May and Mr Justice Stocker, said the sentence imposed on Sarjeant by the Lord Chief Justice for discharging a firearm with intent to alarm the Queen was "not wrong in principle or excessive".

He said the Queen managed to steady her horse after Sarjeant fired an imitation Colt Python revolver. The Lord Chief Justice was amply justified when he said that had Sarjeant been able to obtain a real gun and live ammunition, he would have tried to murder the Queen.

"If he had fired a real pistol with live ammunition, clearly indicating an intention to endanger life, it would have been totally unrealistic to have charged him under Section 2 of the 1842 Act", the appeal judge said.

"He could have been charged with attempted murder, with a maximum life sentence or, by contemplating the death of her Majesty, with high treason, under an Act of 1351, which is still a capital offence."

Mr John Mathew, QC, for the appellant, said Sarjeant had sought self-glorification and to be remembered by his "historic" act. He had no intention of harming the Queen, and the trial judge had gone beyond the ambit of the offence in imposing a five-year sentence.

Lord Justice Ackner, however, said Sarjeant had indicated an intention to killing in his notebook and tapes and in correspondence with friends. He had tried to obtain a firearms certificate from the Folkestone police and ammunition for his father's pistol.

The prosecution was fully entitled to put an explanation of his conduct before the court and would have been failing in its duty not to, he said.

DEAD MAN WOULD HAVE DENIED RAPE

From Our Correspondent Doncaster

A detective accused of rape had had a holiday abroad with his alleged victim during a year long relationship, it was disclosed yesterday. George Hall, aged 35, was due to appear in court yesterday to face a charge of raping and assaulting a police colleague, but he was found dead last week at his home with a plastic bag over his head seconds before the house was wrecked by a gas explosion.

His solicitor told magistrates at Doncaster, that Hall would have denied the rape charge as the Bench agreed not to proceed with charges of rape and causing actual bodily harm.

Mr Fred Curtis, Hall's solicitor, said it was one of the few opportunities he would have to say something on his client's behalf. "On the instructions I have received from the late George Hall I would have been advising him to enter a plea of not guilty and I believe that he had an excellent chance of successfully defending the rape allegations", he said.

Mother charged with murder in 'Dingo' case

Alice Springs, Feb 2.—An Australian coroner today ordered Mrs Lindy Chamberlain, the wife of a Seventh-day Adventist pastor to stand trial charged with the murder of her baby daughter, Azaria, 18 months ago. He overturned an earlier verdict that the child was killed by a dingo (wild dog).

Mr Gerry Galvin the coroner, also committed her husband, The Rev Michael Chamberlain, for trial on a charge of being an accessory after the fact.

A second inquest into the baby's mysterious death was ordered last year after new forensic evidence was given.

The body of Azaria, who disappeared while on a camping holiday with her parents near the tourist spot of Ayers Rock in Central Australia, has never been found. But her bloodstained jumpsuit was recovered in the outback near the camp site several days after her disappearance.

The original inquest, a year ago, found that Azaria had been killed and dragged away by a dingo. It specifically exonerated Mr Chamberlain, aged 37, and his wife, aged 33, of responsibility for the death.

Mr Galvin said that he would not release his full findings so as not to prejudice the Chamberlains' trial.

The case has already attracted huge publicity. He ordered the couple to appear in court on April 19 and allowed them bail of $A5,000 (just under £3,000) each.

Mr Des Sturgess, counsel assisting the coroner, yesterday called for the two to be sent for trial, saying there was a prima facie case that Mrs Chamberlain cut her daughter's throat and that her husband learnt of this afterwards.

He said a jury could infer that Mrs Chamberlain killed Azaria in the family car, parked near the tent, that the child was buried near by, then dug up and the clothing removed before the body was disposed of.

But Mr Phil Rice, for the Chamberlains, said earlier in his final submission that an investigation had not found the body or a weapon linking it to the baby's death. He said that despite adverse evidence from experts all the testimony of witnesses at the camp site supported Mrs Chamberlain's account that the child was taken by a dingo.

He emphasized eyewitness accounts that only a few minutes elapsed between the baby being seen alive and Mrs Chamberlain shouting that Azaria had been taken by a dingo.

Abortion is killing, court rules

Oslo, Feb 2 — The abortion debate has flared up again in Norway after a court decided yesterday that abortion is nothing but killing a human being.

The Norwegain Government lost a civil action in the Malagon District Court, Tromsoe, aimed at dismissing a vicar who has refused to perform his state office duties in protest against abortion on demand. The Government is to appeal.

The court's unanimous verdict was that the Rev Boerre Knudsen may continue as vicar in the parish of Balsfjord despite refusing to carry out his official duties.

Mr Knudsen started his one-man demonstration three and a half years ago after Norway adopted a new law in 1978, allowing free abortion up to the twelfth week after conception.

In its judgment, the court said that it failed to see that abortion brought about artificially was anything but killing a small human being. "It is impossible to fix any point on the road from conception to birth where an acceptable limit can be set for performing an abortion."

Polisario opens Paris office

Paris, Feb 2 — The Polisario Front, the guerrilla movement fighting against Morocco for control of Western Sahara, is to open an official bureau in France, Mr Fadel Ismail, its Europeon representative, said in Paris today.

He said, that the move had the approval of the French Government, which last week had talks with King Hassan of Morocco, who was visiting Paris.

Mr Ismail said that the bureau would enable France "to establish a direct, official and continual dialogue with the other — and principal — party in the Saharan conflict, and promote and develop France-Sahrawi relations with a view to promising cooperation for the future".

Since the election of President Mitterrand, France had taken "the road of history", he went on. "Hence the legitimacy of our hope to be considered on the same equal footing as . . . Morocco . . . by the French Government."

He added, however, that the Polisario Front was still waiting for France to stop deliveries of weapons to Morocco.

Lawyers seek removal of judge

By Nicholas Timmins

A motion calling for the removal of Judge Lord Dunboyne, who on Monday accused defence councel of unnecessarily prolonging a riot trial, will be put to the annual meeting of the Society of Black Lawyers on Friday. Mr Rudi Narayan, a barrister and acting society secretary, said yesterday that if the resolution is passed it will be sent to the Lord Chancellor.

The counsel who was criticized was Mr Sibghat Kadri, joint chairman of the Society of Black Lawyers and president of the Standing Conference of Pakistani Organizations.

During the trial of a black youth arrested during the Brixton riots, he clashed repeatedly with Judge Lord Dunboyne, aged 65, who complained he could not hear Mr Kadri, and said Mr Kadri was "extremely rude". The judge provided guidance for the taxing officer on the way the defence had been conducted, which may result in Mr Kadri's fees being cut.

Mr Kadri accused the Special Patrol Group of being the SAS of the police, and said the defendant, Mr Anthony Amos, aged 20, was kicked and brutalized. Judge Lord Dunboyne, is said to have intervened to say: "it does not matter if the accused was maltreated. There are plenty of courses for alleging malpractice against the police. That is not the issue at the moment."

The judge praised police for causing Mr Amos only minor injuries in the struggle to arrest him.

Mr Narayan said yesterday: "From the information that we have received the clashes were largely due to the judge's inability to hear clearly and not Mr Kadri.

"The judge said it was irrelevant that the defendant received injuries. That is a monstrous thing to say, and he praised five police officers for fighting off one boy. We consider Mr Kadri conducted the trial as well as he could."

Mr Amos was acquitted of assault on the police, after saying he bit an SPG officer's finger to the bone in self defence. He was convicted of possessing an offensive weapon, a brick, and was sentenced to three months in a detention centre.

Growing fear of unrest

Stalinist rules imposed on Polish students

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Feb 2

The mounting alarm of the Polish Government over the possibility of organized oppositiion emerged clearly today when it announced details of strict regulations for university students and staff. Undergraduates are to resume their studies on Thursday for the first time since the imposition of martial law almost seven weeks ago.

The main fear, reinforced by the Gdansk weekend riots, in which students urged shipyard workers to demonstrate, is that universities will become a rallying point of opposition to martial law. Given the widespread disgruntlement over food-price rises — a mood that is likely to deteriorate as housewive's money runs out in the course of the month — the military leadership evidently does not want to take any chances.

The result is a list of restrictions, unprecedented in Eastern Europe since the end of the Stalinist era, and a sharpe shock for Poles still accustomed to their 16 months of relative freedom. Some of the rules had already been disclosed: the ban, for exammple, on staying on the university campus after lectures have finished and the library closed. The orders forbidding union-activity and the use of printing presses have also been known for some weeks.

But the regulations embrace far more. Male students, for example, are no longer exempt from military service during their degree course and can be called up any time — an important disciplinary threat. Graduates now have to find a job within three months of leaving university. If they have found nothing suitable by then, they will have to take and stay with the first available job offered by the employment office. It will be impossible to go on studying for years.

Students who miss even one class without a medical certificate justifying their absence, will be liable to expulsion. Although it is not expected that this rule will be strictly enforced, the martial law regulation stipulates that lecturers covering up a student's absence will also be subject to the same penalty — that is to say, expulsion. Masters' theses and doctorates will be subject to prior censorship — a serious problem for students even in non-political faculties (such as linguistics) who have to draw on foreign press reports. All teaching materials to be circulated in classes will also be subject to censorship.

The figure who emerges strongest from these regulations is . the university rector. Although in Solidarity's Poland, the rector was generally elected by the staff and the students, he is now a government nominee. His authority, especially in terms of disciplinary discretion has been greatly extended. The amount of staff and student participation in university affairs has been correspondingly reduced. The university senate, which used to elect the rector, now has no student representatives and student delegates will no longer participate even in low-level departmental councils.

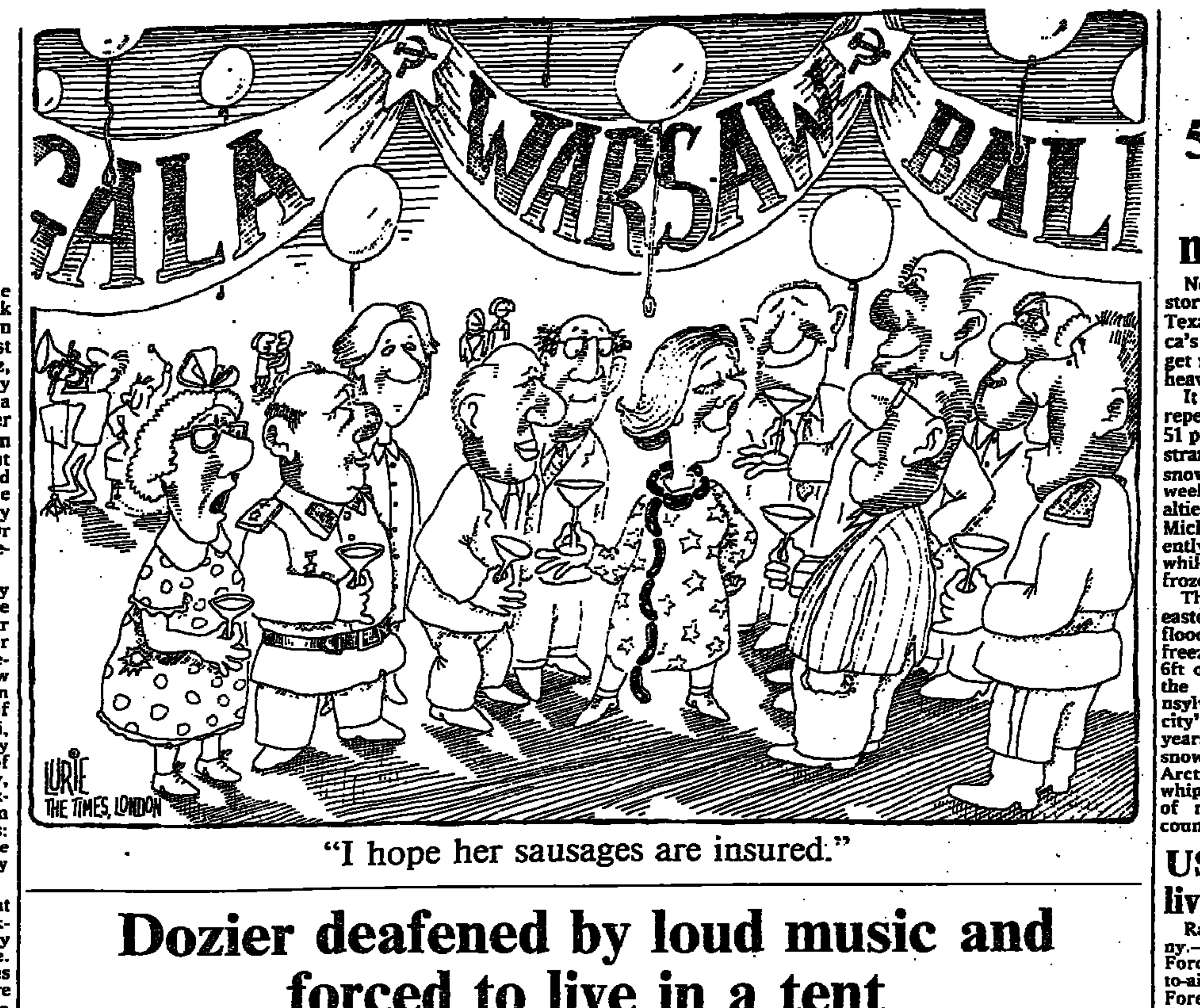
The New powers given to the rector are the direct result of the student strikes that immediately preceded *the imposition of martial law*. Then, students at Radom Engineering College insisted on an equal vote in choosing the new rector (and thus effectively ousting the hardline incumbent, Mr Mihal Hebda). Students at the college and at many of the 82 higher educational institutes staged occupation strikes, including a brief one at the Warsaw Firemen's Academy which was stormed by riot police.

After martial law was introduced, it is understook that Mr Hebda was offered the rectorship of Warsaw University in place of the liberal incumbent, Dr Henryk Samsonowicz, who has been expelled form the Communist Party. Dr Samsonowicz, however, is still technically the rector — Mr Hebda having turned down the offer — and there is some concern in government circles about how such a reform-minded rector will implement the new strict regulations. Many view it as inevitable that Dr Samsonowicz will be removed.

It is manifest that many academics are opposed to the new restrictions. Indeed Mr Jerzy Nawricki, the Minister of Higher Education, resigned soon after martial law in protest. He has been replaced by a friend of General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the leader of the Military Council. The general air of nervousness in Warsaw, however, is unlikely to express itself immediately in the form of open protests: the military presence in the centre and the university area is too strong.

However, it may be that sections of the Polish working population actually favour the new discipline. Certainly some of the rules mean that students will have to study harder. Hitherto they could retake examinations four times if they failed but now they will have two opportunities at the very most. Moreover, by running terms together, students will now be obliged to study without a break from February to mid-July when the examinations are completed.

The idea, of course, is to keep students off the streets, indirectly punish them for the study-time missed through strikes last year, and above all ensure that evenings are not spent in the Solidarity underground. Critics of the new regulations insist that academic freedom has become the victim of the drive to restore law and order.



"I hope her sausages are insured."

Dozier deafened by loud music and forced to live in a tent

From Peter Nichols, Vicenza, Feb 2

Brigadier General James Dozier today publicly accepted full responsibility for having failed to heed warnings that he might be a target for Italian terrorists.

The 50-year-old American was liberated on Thursday from terrorist captivity in Padua in what is regarded as the biggest defeat yet inflicted on the Red Brigades terrorist movement.

He told his first formal press conference since his release: "Well you folks are looking at a sort of embarrassed guy. Yes, I was warned. However the experience in the past had been that these folks did not have United States personnel in mind. And quite frankly I was so busy in the last month or so before the kidnapping that I paid no attention to the threats."

General Dozier was kidnapped on December 17 in his unguarded home in Verona, becoming the first non-Italian victim of Italian terrorists.

His kidnapping appeared to be the most important step in the activities of the terrorists aimed against Nato forces. His post is deputy chief of staff in charge of logistics at the Verona Nato base.

He said he remained optimistic throughout his imprisonment. He had already talked at length about his religious beliefs: "I am fatalistic, as you might say, and think things usually work out for the best." There were high and low points but no moments of deep despair.

He described in some detail the most exhilarating moment of all when the special squad of Italian police broke into the Padua flat to free him. "I was dozing and I had a sense of movement in the apartment and as I looked up my guard stool up and a pistol was pointed at me. Then the next thing I knew is that he was overpowered by people coming into the tent."

The general's bed was under a tent in the living room of the flat. Today his wife Judith was with him at the press conference held in the chapel of the headquarters of the United Stated Army's task force here where the general addressed the congregation on Sunday.

He said his captors were well-orgainzed and smart but there were many well-organized and smart criminals rather than with a military organization.

All conversations were held in Italian and they had thought he knew more Italian than was in fact the case. They did not at first believe him whenm he said his Italian was poor. After a week of imprisonment, however, they brought him an Anglo-Italian dictionary to aid communication.

He summed up their attetude towards him at one of "businesslike indefference." They gave no indication whatsoever of having outside support and they assured him that they were Italian Communists.

Asked about the daily routine he managed to establish, the general replied: "I would be awakened in the morning and the first thing I would do would be to start my morning series of exercises.

"I would then eat fruit brought to me overnight, clean my teeth and take care of my sanitary problems. Then after that I would lie down and goof off for a bit."

Some hours later they would bring him a continental breakfast and then he usually read if he had something to read, or if not he would play cards or take another nap.

He found the meals they brought him well-balanced. In the evening he would read or play cards again. Before supper he would do more exercises.

Asked what he most mised during his imprisonment the general said: "In addition to not having my personal freedom and not being with my wife the thing I missed most was the amount of exercise I can get. I normally jog about four kilometres (about 2.5 miles) a day". The whole period was one of "excruciating boredom".

After his press conference, he went on to Rome for lunch with President Pertini and is due to leave in two days for the United States where he has among his engagements a "national prayer breakfast with President Reagan".

In Rome, Signor Virginio Rognoni, the Minister of the Interior, told the Chamber of Deputies last night that one of the latest developments in the widespread operations against the terrorists set off by the general's kidnapping was the supposed discovery of the flat on the outskirts of Rome where the Red Brigades held Aldo Moro, the Christian Democratic leader, before murdering him in May, 1978.

The murder of Signor Moro remains the one terrorists act that deeply affected internal politics. It is believed that Signor Rognoni's statement was made on the basis ofi evidence given during interrogation by Antonion Savasta, one of the five terrorists captured when General Dozier was released.

Signor Savasta is accused of some 17 murders and is suspected of having been the leader of the group guarding the general.

General Dozier could not confirm who his captors were. He said today that he never saw their faces which they kept covered under ski-masks, telling him that this was for his own good. They would not be able to release him if he could have recognized them.

He was also forced to wear earplugs or listen to loud music on earphones. He was first made to listen to loud rock music but after he complained, he was allowed "Rhapsody in Blue" and some Waltzes, but all played at high volume. As s result, his hearing had suffered.

There are indications here that the operations begun when the general was kidnapped will continue throughout the Veneto area. Last night, a woman identified as Maria Giovanna Massa, a 26-year-old suspected terrorist, was arrested with two other people in Treviso.

The poice believe they have identified the place where the terrorists kept Signor Giudesse Tegliercio, the Mestre industrialist, before killing him last summer.

The group which held General Dozier, is thought to have played a part in both the Tegliercio and Moro Murders. Hopes are expressed here that the trial of the terrorists caught guarding the general will be held very quickly.

The pulic prosecutors's office was said to be sifting the voluminous evidence.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

51 dead as US faces new storms

New York.—A new winter storm left 3ins of snow in the Texas Panhandle and America's Mid-west was warned to get ready for another spell of heavy weather.

It was expected to be a repeat of the storm that left 51 people dead and thousands stranded in almost 2ft of snow in the Mid-west at the weekend. Among the casualties were 15 who died in Michigan, 13 of whom apparently suffered heart attacks while shovelling snow. Two froze to death.

The storm moved into eastern America causing icy floods and bringing snow and freezing rain. Ice chunks and 6ft of water swirled through the streets of oil city Pennsylvania. In St Louis, the city's worst snowstorm in 70 years left nearly 14 ins of snow during the weekend. Arctic winds up to 40 mph whipped Colorado afte 10 ins of new snow in the high country.

US jet loses live mossile

Ramstein, West Germany.—A United States Air Force F15 fighter lost an air-to-air missile over the Black Forest, and officials warned the public that it could explode if moved.

An Air Force spokesman said that the live Sidewinder missile fell from the jet during combat training on Monday. He also said that the missile probably disintegrated on impact in the hilly sparsely populated area of south-western Germany.

Waldheim waits for a new job

Vienna. — Dr Kurt Waldheim, former Secretary General of the United Nations, has rejoined the Austrian Foreign Ministry but the question of precisely what he is to do remains to be decided, ministry sources said.

Speculation has been aroused because of a United Nations ruling which bars a retiring secretary-general from taking a government post in which confidential information he may have acquired could be a source of embarrassment to other countries.

Swedes collect for the forces

Stockholm. — The Swedes, worried that their coastal defence system might not be up to par after a Soviet submarine ran aground off the naval command post in Karlskrona last October, have started a collection to help modernize the armed forces.

Gifts so far amount to about 200,000 krone (£18,867). Mr Harry Lind, from Uppgrana was thanked by the army after he donated 5,010 krone from his savings. He was told it would be used to buy a special camera for a coastal helicopter.

Tshombe case man's Zaire cash

From Harry Debelius Madrid, Feb 2

The first meeting between Moise Tshombe, the former Katangan separatist leader, and his eventual kidnapper took place at Tshombe's own request, according to Francis Bodenan, who is accused of hijacking Tshombe's aircraft.

The latest revelation by the alleged kidnapper and secret agent of the Government of Zaire appeared today in the Madrid daily *Diario 16*, based on conversations between M Bodenan and a reporter at Palma prison, Majorca, where he is awaiting trial on charges of hijacking.

M Bodenan was quoted as saying that he received his first payment as a secret agent for the Zaire Government in late 1966, from a major who occupied an office next to that of the ambassador in the Zaire Embassy in Brussels. He flew to Spain soon afterwards with false documents identifying him as the manager of a Swiss-based investment firm.

M Bodenan, who alleges that the Belgian and Spanish intelligence services collaborated in attempts to "neutralize" Tshombe, said that he made two trips from Brussels to Spain in 1967.

"On that first trip, at the beginning of 1967, I did not see Tshombe. My mission was to plant agents close to him." He added that he was assisted during his two stays in Spain by a Spanish secret agent indentified only as Señor Giménez. That contact was facilitated by a Belgian agent named as Lindemman in Brussels.

On his second trip to Spain, he was quoted as saying, he was instructed to go to the Hotel de Mar in Palma, where the manager allegedly pointed out to him a blonde woman friend of Tshombe's, whom he photographed.

Not long after that — on June 30, 1967 — Tshombe's private aircraft was hijacked shortly after take-off from Ibiza.

ZIA CLOSES LIBYAN CENTRES

From Hasan Akhtar Islamabad, Feb 2

Libyan "friendship centres" in Pakistan have been closed on the orders of the government. They have been operating for some time in Rawalpindi, Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar and are financed with Libyan money.

Their ostensible purpose was to foster closer contacts at people-to-people level. The reason for their closure by General Zia ul-Hao's Goverment was not disclosed.

Pakistan's relations with Libya since the late Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's Government was ousted in 1977 have been uneasy. Mr Agha Shahi, the Pakistan Foreign Minister, made an unannounced visit to Libya last month the object of which has never been explained.

Bonn coalition strained by job scheme

From Patricia Clough Bonn, Feb 2

West Germany's ruling Social Democrat and Free Democrat parties were today feverishly seeking an agreement on a job creation programme to meet the deadline set by Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, — the weekly Cabinet meeting is tomorrow.

The coalition leaders appeared to have achieved a breakthrough late last night, when after 10 hours of talks, the Social Democrats dropped their objection to a one per cent increase in value added tax from the middle of 1983 to finance teh scheme to alleviate unemployment.

However, during the course of today fresh problems cropped up requiring further negotiations. Herr Schmidt, who has threatened to resign if they failed to reach an agreement, stuck firmly to tomorrow's deadline.

A meeting of ecomomic miisters and coalition leaders who were supposed to vet the plan this evening before presenting it to the full Cabinet tomorrow, was put off until 9 am tomorrow. The Cabinet will assemble straight afterwards

☐ Herr Schmidt is understood to have told today Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, now visiting Bonn, that West Germany cannot support Greece's claim for a special relationship with the EEC and Nato.

But Government sources made it clear that while the Chancellor is prepared to help to make Greece's transition period easier he cannot sympathize with any demands for special treatment.

Chris Steele-Perkins


The bodies of five women tortured and shot in Apopa, near San Salvador.

Battle for Salvador towns

San Salvador, Feb 2 — Leftist guerrillas today claimed to control the small north-eastern town of Corinto, despite the dispatch of reinforcements by the Government to defend the town.

There was no independent confirmation of the claim. An army officer in San Miguel, the principal city in the east, said that troops from the army's 3rd brigade headquarters were sent on Monday to reinforce the Corinto army post.

The guerrillas made their claim over their own radio station, Radio Vencerenos, and transmitted interviews with children and old people they said were made in Corinto, a town of about 2,000 in the embattled north-eastern province of Morazan, 125 miles north-east of the capital.'

Residents contacted by telephone said the town and its army post were attacked at about noon on Monday and that the fighting continued into the night.

Meanwhile Guerrillas launched another rare daylight attack on the eastern town of Usulutan today, and fighting was reported as heavy in at least four places there through the morning. A military source reached by telephone there said at least one national policeman was dead but said he had no other information on casualties on either side.

"We can hear powerful explosions but we don't know where they are coming from," said another source in the city of 25,000 residents about 70 miles east of the capital.

Guerrillas have been threatening a major offensive for more than a month but it was too early today to tell if the attacks were the start of it or just a flare-up. Radio Venceremos hinted strongly on Monday that an offensive was near but indicated it would start in the working-class districts around the capital.

Guerrillas fighting to bring down El Salvador's United States-backed Government junta move freely in Morazan. They have captured several army posts in small towns, seized the troops' weapons, then retreated to the mountainous countryside.

Fighting for control of the Central American country has taken more than 35,000 lives since the junta seized power in 1979. Human rights and Roman Catholic church groups say that most of the victims have been unarmed noncombatants killed by Government troops or by right-wing death squads because they are suspected of being guerrillas

President Reagan's Administration has announcement that it is sharply increasing American military aid for El Salvador and disputed recent reports that Salvadorian troops massacred hundreds of unarmed civilians.

Two whites held in Bulawayo

From Stephen Taylor Salisbury, Feb 2

Two more whites have been detained in Zimbabwe, bringing the number being held by the authorities under emergency powers to 15.

Informed sources confirmed that two brothers, Allan and Boetie York, had been arrested on Thursday after the discovery of an ammunition cache on a farm at Figtree, a settlement west of Bulawayo.

A total of 17 whites have been detained since October under the emergency regulations—extended by Parliament two weeks ago—but one escaped from custody and another was deported to South Africa.

As security police continue the hunt for Mr Denis Walker, the MP, the conviction is growing among his colleagues that he is no longer in the country. The Methodist lay preacher and member of Mr Ian Smith's Republican Front was last seen in public a week ago when he dodged security police waiting to arrest him as he left Parliament.

Mr Walker had returned to Zimbabwe to face questioning over allegations that he had been involved with a detained MP, Mr Wally Stuttaford, in plotting to overthrow the Government. His wife and 12-year old son remained in South Africa at the end of a holiday and there is speculation that he has rejoined them there.

Inquiries are understood to be in progress into why members of the central intelligence organization, the State Security Bureau, did not arrest Mr Walker before his disappearance when orders had been issued for his detention four days earlier.

The order under which Mr Stuttaford is held has five more days to run. After that, an order will have to be issued under Section 17, which provides for indefinite detention.

Protest over press curbs

Botha promises consultation

From Michael Hornsby, Cape Town, Feb 2

The new controls on the South African mass media proposed in the Steyn Commission's report were greeted today by a storm of protest in the liberal English-language press, which sees itself as the main target of the report's recommendations. These were tabled in Parliament yesterday.

The reaction in the generally pro-government Afrikaans newspaper was predictably more muted, but it was striking that not one supported the report's main proposal for a compulsory register of journalists from which those judged guilty of "improper conduct" could be struck off.

For his part, Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, told Parliament that the Government was not bound to accept the report's proposals and no decisions would be taken without consulting newspaper owners and other interested parties. But these discussions should not be too long drawn out.

The Prime Minister did not indicate where he stood on the proposal for a compulsory register, but he did claim that the Steyn report had substantiated his own criticisms of "shortcomings in the press's own mechanism for self-discipline".

Mr Botha has proposed that a special parliamentary debate should be devoted later this session to both the Steyn report and a second, and to some extent overlapping, report on security legislation which has been drawn up by a commission under Mr Justice Rabie and is to be released tomorrow.

In a front-page leading article the *Rand Daily Mail* today told its readers that the Steyn report was a "massive, and perhaps fatal assault on your right to be kept informed of what is happening in your own country", a view widely echoed elsewhere in the English-language press.

Even *The Citizen*, the only pro-Government and (it is suspected) Government-funded newspaper in English, was unequivocal in its rejection of statutory controls. The Afrikaans papers generally steered clear of the controversial issue of the register, and concentrated instead on the report's analysis of the alleged Soviet-inspired threat to South Africa's survival.

At a closed meeting of editors of both the Afrikaans and English-language press here this morning there was widespread condemnation of the Steyn proposals. An attempt to get agreement on a joint statement of protest failed, however, and the English-language editors went ahead and issued their own.

Aside from the stiffening of controls on journalists, the proposals in the Steyn report and related draft Bills causing most concern are those aimed at diversifying newspaper ownership, which would in general have far more serious consequences for the English than the Afrikaans press.

The English newspapers are concentrated in two main groups, the Argus Printing and Publishing Company and the South African Associated Newspapers (SAAN), in which huge mining and financial concerns, such as the Anglo American Corporation, are the main shareholders. Argus also has a 39 per cent crossholding in SAAN.

Under the Steyn proposals crossholdings of this kind would be prohibited and no single investor would be able to hold more than 1 per cent of the total shares of either SAAN or Argus. The companies would have three years in which to find alternative financial backing to fill the gap

The Steyn proposals would also have a devastating effect on small family-owned and privately-run newspapers, like Durban's *Natal Mercury*, Maritzburg's *Natal Witness* and East London's *Daily Dispatch* whose owners would be forced to divest themselves of all but 10 per cent of their shares.

A further indication of the scope of the Steyn report is the fact that, as it stands, it would appear to require the compulsory registration of all foreign journalists whose work is used by South African newspapers, radio or television (such as journalists employed by international news agencies or papers like *The Times* which syndicate their news service.

☐ **Proposals attacked:** Mr L. E. A. Slater, Chairman of the Argus group, strongly attacked the legislation proposed by the Steyn commission (our Foreign Staff write).

In a statement published in *The Star* he said: "If it is enacted, even in modified form, it will (a) make South Africa the laughing stock of the entire free world, and (b) within a very short space of time succeed in dousing the last vestige of freedom of expression in this great country of ours."

Mr Slater said that, according to the report, Argus and SAAN "are supposed to be manipulated on behalf of some mysterious person or persons who . . . apparently do not have the interests of South Africa at heart. These assumptions are totally and utterly false and we refute them."

Mr Slater drew attention to a statement last August by Dr Dawie de Villiers, Minister of Industries and Commerce, to the effect that there was no reason to suspect misuse of economic power as a result of the existing structure of the press.

هكذا من الأصل

Marchais party debates its election failures

From Jonathan Fenby, Paris, Feb 2

The French Communist Party opens its triennial congress tomorrow in quest of a new lease of life to reverse a pattern of steep electoral decline and nagging internal differences.

Despite the presence of four Communists in the Government, the party is at its lowest ebb since the Second World War.

From an average of more than 20 per cent of the vote in successive elections up to 1969, the Communists fell to 15 per cent in last year's presidential election. An internal party survey is reported to put their present electoral following at only just over 10 per cent.

The downward trend has also been evident at recent local elections and the party chose not to field any candidates in four by-elections last month.

This kind of record might be expected to put the leadership of most political movements in jeopardy. But Communist leaders, from M *Georges Marchais*, the secretary-general, down are expected to be triumphantly confirmed in their posts at the five-day congress in the Paris suburb of Saint-Ouen.

Some explanation of what has gone wrong is needed, however, and M Marchais and his colleagues have shown they have long memories when it comes to finding a culprit. The fault, they have decided to tell the congress, lies with the party's leaders of 25 years ago who failed to chart a proper course in the destalinization period after 1956.

With the blame laid primarily on dead men, the leadership can turn this wek to explaining how it plans to achieve its aim of "building socialism in the colours of France."

Its main problem is that President Mitterrand and the Socialist Party are already do- ing precisely that. With a Socialist administration firmly in power pursuing a radical programme of reforms, the room left for a mass Communist movement is obviously questionable.

Awareness of this has led to a barely concealed internal debate reaching up to high levels in the party between those who see participation in the Government as the only way of boosting the party's standing, and others who think that association with the Socialists is both ideologically wrong and electorally dangerous.

Marchais has been performing a balancing act between the two groups, with the aim of preserving party unity. The danger is that, by shifting from one side to the other, the party may bewilder rank-and-file members and speed up the decline in the number of active cell militants that has been evident in recent years.

The hard-line attitude is very much in evidence in the party's insistence that the military takeover in Poland was an entirely internal affair, that the Soviet Union was in no way involved, and that Solidarity had gone too far.

The Saint-Ouen congress, which will be attended by Mr Jozef Czyrek, the Polish Foreign Minister, will not dissent from that line, but it has inevitably led to the party being widely cast in the unpopular role of a lapdog of Moscow.

On the other band, M Marchais has insisted that the Communist ministers are there to stay and that the party must work with the Socialists to achieve a joint programme of reforms. This has been tempered, however, by rising criticism of the Government from the powerful Communist-led Confédération Générale du Travail (CGT).

M Henri Krasucki, who will become head of the CGT later this year, said at the weekend that the pace of change was too slow in certain areas and that the Government was disappointing its supporters.

While the general labour peace that has reigned since last summer continues there has been a flurry of labour agitation to protest at the way the reduction in the working week to 39 hours is being applied, and the Government is well aware of the damage which widespread CGT action could do to its economic recovery plans.

Employers in Spain vow to fight

From Richard Wigg
Madrid, Feb 2

The head of Spain's influential employers' confederation and Señor Felipe González, the Socialist leader, have clashed over nationalization. It was one sure sign that electioneering had begun amid the uncertainty about how much longer the Calvo Sotelo Government can battle on without a stable majority.

Señor Carlos Ferrer, President of the CEOE, decided to give an assurance that his organization would not seek to bring down a Socialist government if it won power.

But while in Seville yesterday to survey the prospects in Andalusia's first elections to a regional parliament, the Catalan industrialist and banker indicated the employers would fight nationalization by the back door and help those opposing a Socialist model of society.

Since the employers' organization took part in the Galician regional elections last October, when Señor Manuel Fraga's right-wing Democratic Coalition defeated the ruling Centre Democrats, no one here is surprised by Señor Ferrer's intervention.

Señor Ferrer denies that Spain's employers want to see a fusion of the Centre Democrats and the Fraga forces before the polls or that he favours an early general election.

The employers' leader spoke out in spite of Seör González's assurance in an economic weekly the the Opposition party does not intend to nationalize anything if it wins power.

The Socialists' party conference in the autumn only committed the leadership to studying the possible nationalization of the energy sector and some fields of banking.

"For the present, in view of the state apparatus already existing in Spain, nationalization would only bring impoverishment," the Socialist leader declared it was not true to identify nationalization with progressive attitudes or vice versa. Franco had nationalized as had Italy's Christian Democrats.

FRONTIER TRAFFIC RESUMES

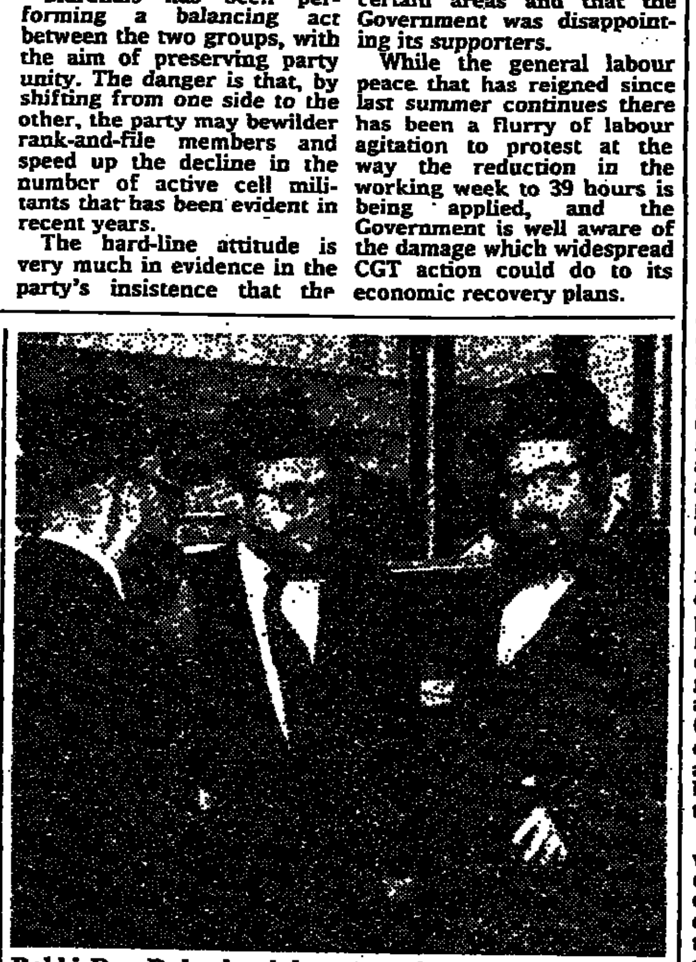
From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Feb 2

Traffic flowed smoothly in both directions at points all along the Franco-Spanish border today after police took over from striking French customs officers and ended a four-day border blockade that had stopped thousands of big lorries on both sides.

Last night, the situation began to improve at crossing points in the Irun-Hendaye area, near the Bay of Biscay, and then at La Junquera, at the eastern end of the Pyrenees, as the lorries began moving slowly. Earlier yesterday a route had been opened for private passenger cars at the western end of the border.

Nevertheless, with as many as 4,000 lorries affected in each of the principal crossing areas the backlog was not expected to be cleared for another day at least.

French police offered special escorts to convoys of Spanish vehicles on certain main routes to prevent any repetition of the recent attacks by French farmers on lorries and trains carrying Spanish fruits and vegetables.



Rabbi Dov Rokach, right, recognized leader of Jewish orthodoxy, at Heathrow yesterday when he arrived for a seven-day visit in which he will open a new Rabbinical college in London.

Pentecostalist abandons Moscow hunger strike

By Our Foreign Staff

Miss Lida Vashchenko, the 31-year-old Soviet Pentecostalist who went on a hunger strike more than a month ago in the American Embassy in Moscow in an effort to emigrate to the West, has ended her fast, United States officials said yesterday.

In a telephone link-up with a press conference in London, a spokesman for the American Embassy said that United States officials who visited Miss Vashchenko in a Soviet hospital yesterday morning had found her taking solids for the first time. A piece of bread was lying on a table in the hospital room where she is apparently being well treated by Soviet doctors, the spokesman added.

Miss Vashchenko's sister, Lyuba, who is still living in the one-room basement flat of the Embassy in Moscow where the family took refuge three-and-a-half years ago remains highly doubtful that Lida has abandoned her fast.

She told reporters in London by telephone yesterday she was almost certain that Lida, who had vowed to continue her hunger strike in hospital, would only be taking liquids such as soup and fruit juice.

Miss Lida Vashchenko was taken to Botinsky Hospital, in Moscow, on Saturday after she had lost weight during her hunger strike. American officials explained that she needed more advanced medical treatment than they could provide in the Embassy. Dr George Hobbs, a British doctor who examined her in the embassy just before she left for hospital accompanied by American officials, reported yesterday that she was "free of physical" damage except for her loss of weight.

Dr Hobbs, who attended the press conference in London, organized by the campaign to free the pentecostalists, who originally came from Siberia, was asked to examine Miss Vashchenko because her family feared that she might be mistreated by the Soviet authorities

In another telephone link-up wth London, Miss Vashchenko's Soviet doctor told reporters yesterday that the hospital authorities doubted whether their patient had been on a hunger strike for as long as a month.

Miss Vashchenko's 52-year-old mother, Augustina, who has also been refusing food in the embassy flat, is continuing her protest.

Japan's blackboard jungle

From Peter Hazelhurst, Tokyo, Feb 2

A Japanese teacher was taken to hospital in Tokyo with ruptured internal organs last week after he attempted to discipline a 14-year-old boy during school hours. Defying the Confucian ethics of his forefathers, the boy and his friends turned on the master and beat him up.

On the same day two 15-year-old students rushed up to the rostrum in a classroom in Yokohama and began slapping a 50-year-old teacher who had reprimanded them.

The two incidents serve as examples of how a new generation of Japanese children are no longer adhering to the social mores of obedience and discipline which helped to transform Japan into the world's second economic power during the last three decades. The older generation is worried. Last year the police arrested 160,000 minors in what has been described as a record level of juvenile delinquency in postwar Japan. Juveniles, mostly high school students, committed 184,902 crimes last year, a rise of 55 per cent over the level recorded five years ago.

Many Japanese are even more perturbed by the latest police reports which show an alarming rise in the rate of violence in school classrooms. Much to the surprise of social scientists in this otherwise highly disciplined and organized nation, the police report that the number of cases of violence in schools increased by 33 per cent to a record of 2,085 cases last year.

The report also reveals that in many parts of the country school teachers, a profession which was revered and respected by an older generation, have taken the unheared of step of asking for police protection.

One of the worst affected institutions is Komatsu junior high school in Tokyo where police protect teachers during graduation ceremonies. Parents have also been forced to pay for damaged windows, fire alarms and equipment destroyed by juvenile delinquents.

In the latest case Mr Sasaki Yamada, aged 30, a Tokyo teacher, was taken to hospital in serious condition last week after he was kicked and punched outside his classroom. He had reprimanded a boy, aged 14, who was tampering with fire equipment in the corridor.

On the same day police took 16 students into custody after they attacked 10 teachers in Tagajo City, central Japan.

"We cannot hit back even if we are attacked and mobbed by students. Sometimes they kick us from behind to show off in front of other students", one of Mr Yamada's colleagues said.

Most teachers claim that troublemakers are dropouts who cannot be punished physically or expelled from school under Japanese law, which provides for compulsory education up to the level of junior high school.

According to a spokesman for the national police agency, junior high school students are responsible for most of the attacks. "In one case we had to close an entire school. Steel pipes and chains are used", he explained. In another case a mother recently strangled her delinquent son and then committed suicide.

"Although the problem is not as widespread as it is in New York it is ominous in the sense that we have never had to deal with this sort of disobedience on this sort of scale in the past. The previous generation were obedient and polite when they were at school. This could be evidence that Japanese society is on the brink of drastic change", Miss Yoko Watanabe, a social scientist, said.

Carrington quotes Marx on Russia

From David Watts
Manila, Feb 2

Prospects for world peace will be improved if certain countries can be persuaded that voluntary acceptance of constraints does not limit their sovereignty, Lord Carrington told a festive audience at the University of the Philippines today after accepting a doctorate of law.

It would be, for example, in the interests of Namibia and all its neighbours that Pretoria be given assurances that an independent Namibia would not become a base for operations against South Africa.

The Foreign Secretary, making the main speech of his South-East Asian tour, described what he saw as the threats to peace and outlined the ways in which peace might be strenghthened by the non-communist world.

A theme of Lord Carrington's tour of the five countries of the association *of South-East Asian Nations* is support for Asean's stand on Cambodia and the Foreign Secretary took the opportunity today to praise the group's efforts.

"Similarly in Afghanistan," Lord Carrington went on, "we would consider it perfectly aceptable that the withdrawal of Soviet troops should be accompanied by appropriate undertakings that Afghanistan will not threaten the security of the Soviet Union. And a Vietnamese withdrawal from Cambodia should probably call for similar undertakings."

Lord Carrington went on to say that the British Government admired and supported the determined and skilful efforts of Asean, and especially of the philippines, to resolve the problem of Cambodia.

"The international community will not acquiesce in continued Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia. I very much hope that a solution can be found which safeguards the vital interests of all who are concerned with Cambodia, including, of course, Vietnam, and which allows the people of Cambodia to exercise their right to self-determination."

The Foreign Secretary, who already holds similar law degrees from the universities of Cambridge and Leeds, quoted Karl Marx to illustrate the need for the West and like-minded nations to remain "the earnest and unyielding opponents of the Russian projects of annexation and aggrandisement".

Marx wrote in 1853: "As sure as conquest follows conquest and annexation follows annexation, so surely would the conquest of Turkey by Russia be only the prelude to the annexation of Hungary, Prussia, Galicia (i.e., Poland) and the ultimate realization of a Slavonic empire. The arrest of the Russian scheme of annexation is a matter of the highest moment".

Lord Carrington added a postscript for 1982: "We have a duty to see that it goes no further".

□ Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia today served notice that its support for Cambodia in the United Nations was not absolute (Our Correspondent writes). Datuk Sri Mahathir Mohamed, Malaysia's Prime Minister, in a clear reference to the Pol Pot regime, said that the "intransigent attitude of certain parties is very much regretted . . . (and) it may no longer be worth while for us to support their position in the United Nations".

The statement, made to the fourth annual meeting of the Asean Interparliamentary organization, came as a surprise to other Asean member states. It contradicted a statement of Tan Sri Ghazali, his Foreign Minister, made only last week, that Malaysia would continue to support the Pol Pot regime despite its refusal to join a coalition of anti-Vietnamese forces in Cambodia.

The BBC's radio 'empire': 50 years of international broadcasting

Jozef Bilinski producing one of the daily programmes in Polish. Since the imposition of martial law in Poland, the broadcasts have been increased to 3¾ hours a day

A service on which the sun still never sets

There is something almost deliberately understated and restrained about the celebrations that the BBC is mounting this year to mark the fiftieth anniversary of broadcasting to the world. Nothing showy is planned, just a service in St Martin-in-the-Fields, a concert at the Royal Albert Hall and an international painting competition on the theme "Nation Shall Speak Peace Unto Nation".

It is somehow typical of the calm, old-fashioned, almost religious atmosphere which pervades Bush House, the twentieth-century Tower of Babel stranded on its island site in the Aldwych, from which broadcasts in 37 languages are beamed to the furthest corners of the globe. The eight-storey building which suffers one of the worst lift systems in London, and is only now being rid of the dangerous asbestos lining its walls, is a temple of plain living and high thinking which still exudes a Reithian sense of *gravitas* and earnest commitment now perhaps less often found in the corridors of Broadcasting House.

When the BBC started broadcasting overseas in 1931 it was under the title of the Empire Service. Bush House, sandwiched between the Australian and Indian High Commissions, and the home of BBC external services since 1940, remains one of the last imperial outposts in a post-imperial age. The aim may now be cultural influence rather than colonial domination but the belief in the benefits of spreading British values of liberal democracy and fair-minded tolerance remains as strong as ever. The strains of the march *Imperial Echoes* still introduce the daily radio newsreel on the World Service, which broadcasts 24 hours a day in English.

Admittedly, there is a distinct feeling of an empire in retreat. Thirty years ago Britain was easily at the top of the league table of international broadcasters in terms of hours broadcast every week. Now we are down to sixth place with *North Korea* and *Albania* breathing down our necks. The beginning of this year saw the axing of three language services, the Italian, Spanish and Maltese (the last admittedly had a staff of only one) because of Government spending cuts.

In size of audience, however, the BBC remains top of the table. The latest research gives BBC External Services a global audience of 100 million (excluding China, from which no figures are available), significantly more than those achieved by either Radio Moscow or the Voice of America. That is despite ageing transmitters, many dating from the Second World War, which produce a signal for the BBC in most parts of the world that is weaker and more difficult to pick up than that of its rivals. Money is now at last available for a complete replacement programme.

The more irreverent inhabitants of Bush House say that the reason for the BBC's large audience is the continuing pre-eminence of British pop music. The Polish service receives as many letters about the Top Ten as it does about the activities of Solidarity and a recent British visitor to Soviet Central Asia was surprised to find his Intourist guide complaining bitterly that the World Service Pop Club was transmitted too late at night.

But what chiefly distinguishes the BBC from its main competitors in the field of external broadcasting, and must in large part explain its enormous audience and unique reputation, is its political independence and impartiality. Although financed by a grant-in-aid from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (£63m for this year), the External Services are totally free of any editorial interference by the Government. There are no Foreign Office personnel in Bush House and the department's involvement is limited to discussions about the duration of broadcasts and the countries to which they should be aimed. No other major external broadcasting organization enjoys such freedom.

This independence was won by Lord Reith when he first set up the Empire Service. The Government was keen on the idea but unwilling to provide the money, so Reith financed the service from the BBC's licence revenue. The Foreign Office took over the funding when the first language broadcasts started in 1938, but only after Reith had fiercely resisted the idea of a Government-run propaganda service and had firmly established the principle that the BBC would have total editorial freedom.

The first language service was in Arabic because it was being used by the Italians at the beginning of their Abyssinia campaign. Its opening news bulletin on January 3 1938 carried an item about the execution in Palestine of an Arab by the British authorities for possessing a rifle, exactly the kind of information that would not have been broadcast on a government-run service.

It was during the war that external broadcasting really took off as a steady stream of refugees came to London to speak to their occupied homelands. On the outbreak of war the BBC was broadcasting in seven languages; by the end it had transmissions in 40. A campaign initiated by the Belgian Service led to resistance fighters chalking up the letter "V" for victory on walls across Europe and Eisenhower used the European Services to announce the D-Day invasion of France and to issue instructions to French civilians.

The wartime expansion led the BBC's external services to forsake Broadcasting House and move to the

Chris Pszenicki, who came to Britain in 1969 and now heads the Polish service's staff of 25

building which the American entrepeneur, Irving T Bush, had originally intended to be an international trade centre. In September 1940 the BBC took over the J. Walter Thompson studio in the south-east wing which had previously been used by Radio Luxembourg. The Corporation has gradually taken over more and more of Bush House, and been a tenant first of the Church in Wales and now of the Post Office Staff Superannuation Fund.

A few of those who came to the BBC as refugees during or immediately after the war are still working in Bush House. Among them is Anatol Goldberg, a Russian who joined the Monitoring Service, another part of the external services empire, the week before war broke out, and is now chief scriptwriter and commentator for the East European service. A man of immense charm and courtesy, whose manner and appearance would fit equally well in a Le Carré novel or a pre-war Viennesse salon, he regards himself as "the last vestige of the war-time generation".

Goldberg says that he has often been recognized on visits back to Russia. Two ladies in Leningrad, who said that he could be heard loud and clear right down their street, even gave him a leading position in their imaginary world government. "The official Soviet view of me has changed", he says, "There was a time when the line was that I didn't exist. Now there is a government publication about the BBC which has one and a half pages about me".

Another wartime refugee still working at Bush is Jozef Bilinski, who originally came to Britain to join the navy in 1940. For the past 28 years he has worked in the Polish service, which had six million regular listeners when the last audience research study was carried out more than a year ago.

Since the beginning of this year the service has been jammed on short wave by three Soviet stations. However the medium wave transmissions, which would require local jamming, have apparently been unaffected and Bilinski has definite proof that his voice is being heard in his homeland. Last week he got a card from an old friend in Warsaw which said: "You sound as if you've got a bad cold. I hope it is getting better".

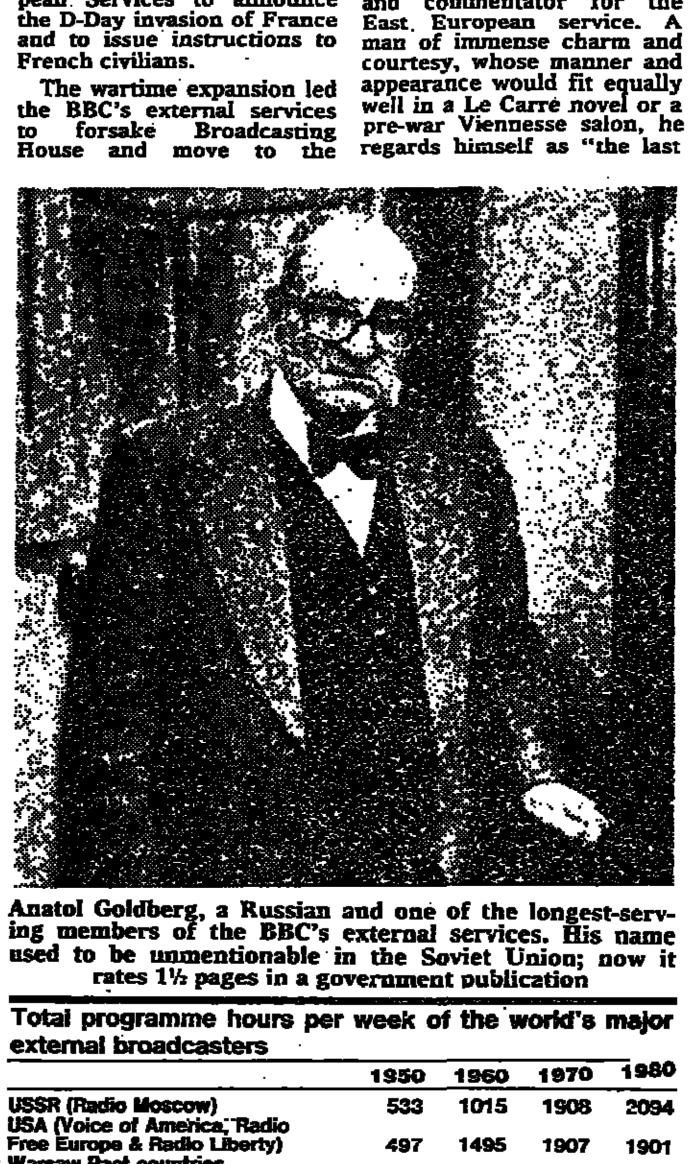
Chris Pszenicki, controller of the Polish service, represents a younger generation of refugees who have made their home in Bush House. He came to Britain in 1969 and now heads a department of 25, all but one of whom are native Polish speakers. He is particularly proud that during the period of Solidarity's existence the Polish service was able to reflect every political viewpoint in the country. In one programmme there were telephone interviews with a member of the Council of State, an official Government spokesman, a Catholic intellectual, a Solidarity spokesman and an old-time dissident.

Broadcasts in Polish have increased from three to three and three quarters hours a day since the declaration of martial law. Like much of the output of Bush House, they seem to belong to a calmer age of radio broadcasting which the domestic networks seem now to have left far behind. As the signature tune (*The Voice of London* played by the Queen's Hall Light Orchestra) fades, Joseph Bilinski, wearing his Royal Navy blazer, cues in his announcers to deliver clearly and slowly enunciated translations of dispatches from BBC correspondents around the world and news of cultural, political and technological developments in Britain.

Douglas Muggeridge, managing director of external services, denies that there is any sense of Reithian superiority among the inmates of Bush House over their trendier cousins in Broadcasting House. "The principles by which we work are identical", he says. "First and foremost we are BBC people and that is where our loyalty is. The only difference is that here we are broadcasting to an international audience and for that reason our priorities are different. A *coup d'ètat* in Thailand is more important for us than a victory by the SDP".

It is a perspective that is apparently shared by a growing number of people in Britain who listen to the World Service in preference to the domestic networks. Ironically, this is only possible at the moment because of unintended back radiation from transmitters in this country designed to beam broadcasts to Europe. With the modernization programme due to begin this year, it is quite likely that the BBC's external services will no longer be audible here. It is an unfortunate fiftieth birthday present for a growing group of fans whose taxes pay for the services.

Ian Bradley



Anatol Goldberg, a Russian and one of the longest-serving members of the BBC's external services. His name used to be unmentionable in the Soviet Union; now it rates 1½ pages in a government publication

Total programme hours per week of the world's major external broadcasters

	1950	1960	1970	1980
USSR (Radio Moscow)	533	1015	1908	2094
USA (Voice of America, Radio Free Europe & Radio Liberty)	497	1495	1907	1901
Warsaw Pact countries (excluding USSR)	386	1009	1264	1528
China (Radio Peking)	66	687	1267	1350
West Germany (Deutsche Welle)	—	315	779	804
Britain (BBC)	643	589	723	719

Some audience figures

India (Hindi broadcasts) regular audience	
BBC	35m
Radio Moscow	5m
Voice of America	3.5m
Radio Peking	1.8m
Deutsche Wells	1.2m

Bangladesh (Bengali broadcasts) Percentage of population listening to:	
BBC	31.8
All India Radio	30.7
Rakio Pakistan	23.1
Voice of America	24.5
Radio Peking	4.6
Radio Moscow	3.6
Deutsche Welle	1.3

Greece (Greek broadcasts) Percentage of population listening to:	
BBC	4
Deutsche Welle	3.1
Radio Moscow	2.5
Radio Sofia	2.3
Voice of America	2

Chile (Spanish broadcasts) Percentage of population listening to:	
BBC	1.2
Voice of America	1.8
Radio Moscow	1.5
Spanish National Radio	0.8
Deutsche Walle	0.2

Pym's game: The stakes are raised

by Peter Stothard

Francis Pym's blunt message to the nation to expect continuing high unemployment and to moderate its expectation of living standards did not come as a surprise to his political friends or enemies; but the massive reaction to it did.

Since he became the Government's chief information coordinator just over a year ago, Mr Pym has consistently preached the realism of the long road ahead to recovery. From Almwick to Putney he bashed out the same bad news. Few wanted him to say it and few wanted to believe it.

His appointment to direct the government's publicity machine was always seen by Tory "dries" and professional Whitehall information officers as akin to making Cassandra the PR girl for Troy. On the other hand, many Tory "wets" who were supposed to be his allies saw his campaign of speeches as at best pusillanimous and at worst self-seekingly equivocal.

So when on Monday night he stood up before the Allied Brewery Trades Association and regaled i with the same unhappy refrain that government policy "cannot lead to an early return to full or nearly full employment", nobody much expected that a political storm would burst — least of all Mr Pym himself.

One reason for the strong reaction is, of course, the high degree of uncertainty surrounding the run-up to the Budget on March 9. Another is the high degree of doubt — much voiced in Westminster yesterday — about Mr Pym's motives.

In recent weeks the Treasury has been conducting an apparently successful campaign to get the tough Budget which it wants. *Its ministers have spoken of the* Government "winning the battle" and the economy "moving in the right direction" to a position of "steady recovery". Last week's Cabinet meeting on the economy, at which Mr Pym made no more than his usual muted contribution, left ministers with the feeling that not much extra would be done to bring the country more quickly out of the recession.

With the spectre of US interest rates hanging menacingly over the Budget judgment and threatening to make nonsense of any decision over whether a mere £1,500m or £3,000m be given to help industry, the wets stood in disarray. All the Treasury saw that it had to do was to keep on putting out the promise of the good times ahead on its broadly unchanged and unchangeable policies.

So what was Mr Pym trying to achieve by this latest of his "realism" speeches? The most obvious answer is that it was simply a repeated call for the Chancellor to do more to help industry than he is currently intending.

According to this view, Mr Pym has seen the Treasury's so-called "recovery ahead" and does not like what he sees. Sir Geoffrey Howe's "recovery" is no recovery at all and, in the absence of James Prior in Northern Ireland, Lord Carrington in the Far East and William Whitelaw in who knows where, it falls to Mr Pym to marshall the opposition battalions.

There are snags with this interpretation, however. And they were put forward yesterday by noticeably more backwoodsmen "dries" than by MPs who know Mr Pym at all well. Although it is certainly true that Mr Pym would like a little more flexibility from the Chancellor, he needs no telling how little real room the Budget makers have for manoeuvre with the uncertain prospect for United States interest rates. Nor is he unaware of how little short-term difference to employment even a very large fiscal stimulus would bring.

The alternative view of Mr Pym's strategy is that he sees more electoral trouble ahead for the Conservative Party from the disappointment of too high expectations of living standards than from the lowered living standards themselves. He has a gut belief that the British people appreciate plain speaking and fears that such credit as the Government might be able to claim for its tough economic measures will be swept aside by a crashing of high hopes.

On this interpretation Mr Pym is a Tory loyalist who, while skilfully distancing himself from the Prime Minister, does not want her to change her course.

It is fashionable to praise Mr Pym as a consummate politician while deriding his effectiveness — even denying that he is making any effort — in the job of chief government news coordinator.

He is determined to stop the Treasury fighting its Whitehall battles by misleading the public and endangering Conservative election chances.

The Cassandra has been consistent; while Mrs Thatcher will not thank him for it and will continue to brook no charges of error at 10 or 11 Downing Street, he stands to win the thanks — and possibly much more than the thanks — of the Tory party in the end.

Richard Ford on the key issues in Ireland's snap election

Who fancies the doctor's hair shirt?

Dublin
"He's right", shout the campaign posters of Dr Garret FitzGerald's Fine Gael party, plunged into an unexpected general election after defeat on tough budget proposals aimed at resolving Ireland's economic problems.

But whether the nation's 2.2 million voters, faced probably for the first time in the state's history with an election in which the politicians have few or no sweeteners to offer, accept his "hair shirt remedy" for the crisis is another matter.

Rarely can an administration have entered a campaign with such an inauspicious start. Hit in the solar plexus by the one-vote defeat, wrangling in the small Labour Party on the advisability of fighting on a joint ticket with their coalition partners and then, 48 hours after the budget, dropping the plan to put 18 per cent VAT on clothes and footwear for children under the age of 10.

Though all three major parties were short of funds and policies, it is the coalition who, just seven months after taking office, have the uphill task of fighting on budget poposals that hit almost every sector of society.

"How typical of Ireland to have a government fall over the price of a pint", said one man after the defeat on the proposal to increase beer by 2p a pint. But that was only one of many Draconian measures outlined in what Dr FitzGerald himself admitted was the "toughest budget in the history of the state".

The country seems almost weary at the prospect of another campaign so soon after last year's but, with a degree of energy that would surprise the major parties in England, rival posters were appearing on Dublin's streets within hours of the government's collapse.

And the coalition have recovered quickly from that initial shock defeat and pinned their survival firmly to the budget proposals in the hope that they will get support for being seen to take politically unpopular measures. Little other strategy was available to them, having made the fatal political miscalculation of not securing the support of Independent members on whom they relied for survival. To retreat in any major way from their proposals would have had a devastating effect: their political credibility would have been in tatters.

Credibility, honesty, and responsibility have suddenly become issues in Irish politics during recent months as the nature and scale of the problems facing the country became more apparent. They are issues on which Dr FitzGerald can hope to capitalize and already, as he appeals for support at a time of national emergency, he is saying that honesty as well as the budget, will be a key issue.

"I think the issue in this election is who you trust," he said in opening the Fine Gael-Labour election campaign. There was no alternative to his budget strategy, he added, using a refrain reminiscent of Mrs Thatcher's reply to her critics. Then he proceeded to wrap the issue of the national crisis firmly around himself, saying "politics is not just about staying in power,. for the sake of staying in power. There are times of national emergency when the country has to be put first".

Though stressing that the economy is the major issue, Fine Gael strategists will continue to project Dr FitzGerald as the man the people

Dr FitzGerald and Charles Haughey: will their contest end in stalemate again?

can trust. There is, they believe, still a lot of goodwill towards him. In contrast, the opposition Fianna Fail are unlikely to be content with a presidential-style election confrontation between Dr FitzGerald and Mr Charles Haughey, but will hammer away at the budget.

Already Fianna Fail advertisements are appearing in newspapers emphasizing the full increases announced last week and saying "Reject the coalition budget". But if Mr Haughey thinks, as he and his party appeared to do in the euphoria following the Dail vote, that he can attack the budget and watch the government sink, without putting forward detailed plans, it could prove a grave miscalculation.

If the Irish are united on one thing, it is the realization that the economic boom of the 1970s has ended and the recession is here for some time. The coalition have dismissed what the opposition are offering as "a three-card trick of shifting positions," and will stump the country demanding details of Mr Haughey's remedies for the economic crisis.

The problems are daunting. Inflation is running at 23 per cent, unemployment stands at 141,000 (11 per cent of the population), and the total national debt is £Irish10,000m. The current account deficit is 7.9 per cent of gross national product and the annual cost of servicing the debt is £Irish1,054m. Total government borrowing is 17 per cent of GNP which Dr FitzGerald's administration planned to reduce to 14 per cent.

Mr Haughey, whose performance as Prime Minister disappointed many people, opened his campaign with a lacklustre press conference. Despite persistent questioning he did not give details of the alternative budget he would introduce and on the current deficit, which the government aimed to reduce from £Irish930m to £715m this year, he said: "We would aim to phase out the current budget deficit as soon as economic and fiscal conditions allow".

Within 24 hours, Fine Gael's strategy appeared to be working as the opposition were forced on to the defensive, with Mr Haughey's finance spokesman admitting they would have to increase taxes in some areas, and agreeing that Fianna Fail, if elected, would reduce the current deficit to the same level proposed by the coalition.

Fianna Fail's difficulties on economic strategy are a major credibility problem. Only two years ago, Mr Haughey, while Prime Minister, told the country in a broadcast that it was living beyond its means and domestic affairs had to be put in order. But in the dying days of his premiership, he was denying that there was a crisis and only recently has brought Dr Martin O'Donoghue, the man many blame for the nation's current problems, back into his frontbench team after dismissing him when he became Premier.

But for Mr Haughey, the election has come at just the right time. His party, Ireland's natural party of government, has sat uneasily in opposition and his performance as leader has been under growing attack, not only from MPs but from local parties in the country. Only two weeks ago, a Kildare backbencher was expelled from the party for a thinly veiled attack on Mr Haughey's leadership. He has now been welcomed back into the fold and all differences are being submerged as the party begins to campaign.

Though many in Britain think that Northern Ireland is an issue in the republic's politics it is generally not the case and both the party's leaders are united in believing that it will not be a substantial issue during the next three weeks. Whoever wins, the Anglo-Irish talks will continue although if Mr Haughey returns to power, the constitutional crusade launched by Dr FitzGerald aimed at making the republic less sectarian will be over.

In any case, the Irish face tough years ahead but in personal terms this election is crucial for the leaders of all three political parties. None of them, if defeated at the polls, would be expected to last long as leader.

Fianna Fail are being tipped as favourites but Dr FitzGerald has the edge in the leadership stakes, both in popular approval and on his record as Premier. His honesty and credibility are high, and he may well return to power on the basis that though he has had only seven months in office, the electorate are prepared to give him another chance. His major handicap is Fianna Fail's strength in the country, and the danger that his Labour partners may see their vote and number of seats crumble even further.

What all parties are agreed on is that another result in which no one won on overall majority would be the worst outcome. However, with the vagaries of proportional representation and the intervention of Provisional Sinn Fein, that may be what the Irish discover on February 19 as the votes are counted.

Henry Fairlie

Imagine 'Brideshead' without sex or religion . . .

Telephoning three people the other Monday evening in three different time zones, I met the same irritated and even abrupt response from them all. They wanted me to get off the line as quickly as possible. I had unthinkingly chosen the hour of 9 pm in each zone, from New York to Wisconsin to Colorado, when the second episode of *Brideshead Revisited* was being shown on public TV. British television had pulled it off again. By the end of the first episode — three have now been shown — it had hooked tens of millions of Americans.

It is not yet clear to me how the story can be spun out over 13 episodes. But even if there are some less than exciting passages, that will not bother Americans.

Ever since they were captivated by *Upstairs, Downstairs* eight years ago, fretting for months when Lady Bellamy went down in the Titanic, they have been willing to watch almost any series which Britain sends over, however remote the story from their own experience and environment.

Mobil Oil raves in sponsoring *Brideshead*; Alistair Cooke raves in his introductions to each episode; television reviewers rave about the production, wondering why the American networks cannot do the same; and most of one's friends are delirious with delight.

One cannot detect more than a little snobbery in the response. There is a middle-brow snobbery in America that praises everything on public television and disdains everything on the commercial networks as a blight; it praises anything British over the home-grown product, as it will praise Bird's custard powder even over a hot fudge sundae. And there is a persistent snobbery in America that either openly or covertly likes nothing better than a good story about an aristocratic family with a name like Flyte. If one of the characters is also called Sebastian, that goes down all the better. If another is called Anthony Blanche, that does no harm, either.

It is true that commercial television here is much more of a wasteland than it should be and, one suspects, need be. It is too cowardly in the face of the ratings; it underestimates viewers' intelligence and taste; and usually it will not persist in experimenting with a good programme if it is not popular in the first few episodes.

There was a good example earlier this season of how the commercial networks often botch their attempts to produce a programme comparable to one of the better British series. ABC went to the expense and trouble to make a six-hour drama called

Diana Quick (top) of Brideshead, Victoria Principal of Dallas: why Julia appeals more than Pam.

The Manions of America, which was meant to be a chronicle of the Irish immigrants in the nineteenth century. This was a golden opportunity to tell one of the greatest and most vivid sagas in American history.

But it was a flop. The task was given to a practised writer of soap operas, and the whole six hours, running on three successive evenings, centred on little more than a rather silly and in the end boring romance, with only a few dutiful looks at the way the Irish clawed and clambered their way out of their ghettoes.

Everything that was brawling, passionate, fierce, brutal in the story of the immigrants was made glossy. Even the building of the railroads across the country, in which the Irish played so large a part, was told with only a few conventional hints of the exploitation, or even of the sheer human cost of the extraordinary endeavour. A continent was conquered by steel rail. It *might* have been boys playing with Meccano.

This is all the more strange since even in what is little more than a prime time soap opera, *Dallas*, there was some willingness to come to grips with the harshness of the kind of lives it depicts. Yet there is a lesson to be learned even from what has happened to *Dallas*. Today it is neither as lusty not hardbitten as it was in the beginning. It certainly no longer attracts the same following as when everyone was wondering, "who killed JR?" What has happened?

Alhough the networks deny it, they are sensitive to the pressure of the religious groups, which by and large compose what is called "the moral majority", who have appointed themselves moral watchdogs of American life. Their campaign last year to boycott the goods advertised on the programmes of which they disapprove may have failed. But their relentless voice has encouraged a more conservative spirit in the programming of the three large networks.

If *Brideshead* had been made specifically for the American networks, both the sex and religion would have been cut out. That would rather be like cutting out the whaling passages from *Moby Dick*.

It is not only religion and sex which are now handled more gingerly. As in *The Manions of America* — in which the raw political struggle of the Irish immigrants should have been central — politics was really put into the margins.

Except in the occasional documentaries, politics is not a prime time subject. In so far as politics is given a place in the stories it is a politics only of personal ambition or greed and corruption.

It is all the more sad because American television can sometimes do a superlatively good job. A 90-minute CBS documentary broadcast last Saturday traced how the military authorities during the Vietman war persistently lied about the size of the North Vietnamese and Vietcong forces opposed to the American army so that, when the vast numbers burst forward in the Tet offensive, it was not clear to the American people where they had sprung from.

The whole programme was a piece of reporting of high quality. It was characteristic that CBS should screen it at 9.30 on a Saturday evening when the prime time audience is neither as large nor as attentive as on other days.

The networks are quick to respond to and exploit a popular mood. Two of the new cop shows this season, *McLaine's Law* and *Strike Force*, are almost disdainful of suspects civil rights. The police are celebrated for breaking the law to get their man. Both programmes are typical of the willingness of the networks to follow but not try to form public opinion or taste. They are, simply, alarming shows.

Yet there is a revolution afoot which may change American television so radically that the networks may barely survive in their present form. The cable television systems here will soon have 60 channels; it will not be long before perhaps a third of American homes receive them. Even with these numbers, cable television will create particular audiences of fairly well-off viewers, to whom the advertisers wish to appeal.

Even the networks, as they push into cable television to save their very existences, are launching cultural and news programmes which previously they did not bother to make. The telecommunications technology, partly as a result of the space programme, is only in the most elementary stage of its development. But it would not be surprising if, by 1990, American television had at last replaced Britain in the prestige which its programmes earn.

Think tanks tearing Tawney apart

There is an unseemly *tug* of war for the soul of R. H. Tawney, the economist historian, after whom the Social Democrats have named their new think tank, the Tawney Society.

A barbed note from Lady Jeger in *The Times* yesterday marked the disapproval of one socialist who was actually watching a plaque being unveiled at the saint of socialism's London home on the day the SDP's Gang of Four were busy having one of their gestatory summit meetings.

"Tawney would be turning in his grave", claimed Dianne Hayter, general secretary of the Fabian Society, "if he had known the Social Democrats were using his name in such a fashion." (One wonders how still Fabius Maximum lies.) "They are betraying his memory", she said. "It is dishonest. I do not believe that SDP members support his ideals. If he were alive he would sue. He would still be in the Fabian Society, and he would still be in the Labour Party."

Hayter said the SDP no more than tolerate the trade unions which Tawney championed, that Tawney — who died 20 years ago — would never have supported a mixed education system, and that his belief in equality of opportunity would have allowed him no truck with inherited privilege.

Lord Young of Dartington, chairman of the Tawney Society's provisional committee, who imbued his political philosophy as Tawney's pupil at the London School of Economics, said: "The Fabians are entitled to their views, but Tawney was *par excellence* a democratic socialist.

"It is the fate of great men to have their mantle fought over. How many different kinds of Marxists are there?"

Hugh Gaitskell, said Young, cited Tawney's shock at hearing in a local Labour Party meeting the view that party conference decisions should be binding on the parliamentary party. Tawney thought it was absolutely wrong and anti-democratic, and that of course was the issue on which the SDP was formed.

Grape hopes

New Zealanders have been blending over backwards to sell more wine abroad. They are also titillating our appetities with skin contact. It may not sound it, but wine-making is a serious, and booming, business in the land of the long, white cloud, where they are very earnest about things like cold fermentation, bulk maturation, and submerged caps. Back-blending, incidentally, is what Kiwis call the German method of adding unfermented grape juice to sweeten wine, and skin contact, of course, involves only grape skins.

The rush is on to export the wines because vineyards are being planted so fast in the country that a third of the vines are under four years old, and will soon begin bearing grapes.

Cynics in New Zealand say overplanting of ungrafted vines is proceeding so rapidly in their country that only *phylloxera*, the bug which devastated Europe's vineyards in the last century, can save their industry now. John Avery, the British Master of Wine who was chief judge at New Zealand's recent wine fair, is much more optimistic. "The time will come", he predicted "when Montana's Chardonnay is as well recognized as Bollinger's Champagne."

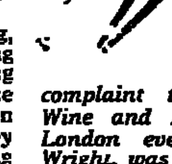
Bad business?

The editors of the magazine *What to Buy for Business* claim to have uncovered an advertisement which has taken standards in advertising business equipment to a new low. They may exaggerate, but should be attended to, since one of them happens to be Phillip Oppenheim, the son of the Consumer Affairs Minister, Mrs Sally Oppenheim.

The advertisement which has so offended Oppenheim and his partner, John Derrick, that they have launched their own campaign against it without waiting for the Advertising Standards Authority to act has been appearing in Sunday papers. It asked: "Puzzled by office copiers?", and offered a free copy of "a quick comparison guide." The reader was invited to return the coupon to an organization called the Office Copier Advisory Bureau.

In fact the advertisment was placed by an agency called Contract Advertising on behalf of Kalle Infotec, a subsidiary of the West German Hoechst corporation. Those who return the coupon get a Kalle Infotec sales brochure which, in the words of Tony Waring, the company's marketing director, "is not intended as a comprehensive guide." The Office Copier Advisory Bureau never existed, says Waring, "beyond the fact that we have a lot of people here who can advise about copiers." The advertisement, he adds, engendered "a tremendous response and only one complaint". Nonetheless if it is re-run, it will only be with the company's name.

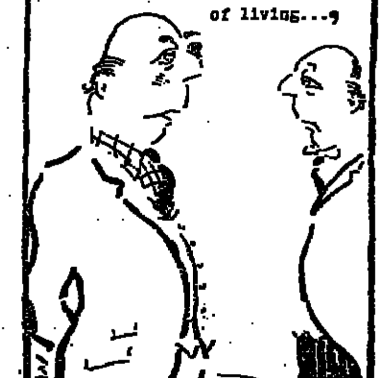
THE TIMES DIARY



A jealous greed has sprung up over gastronomic tours of China. Paul Levy, food writer of The Observer, *has written a mildly bitter letter of complaint to the International Wine and Food Society, whose London events organizer, Gail Wright, was one of a gourmandizing group he led around the country's culinary capitals last year. Wright is now organizing the society's own spring roll around China, following, Levy claims, almost precisely the same itinerary and visiting all the restaurants and chefs he rediscovered.*

Levy's gall is that Wright's articles in the society's journal, puffing the pleasures of the trip, gave no hint that he had organized it. "She was great fun to have along", he says, "but by implication she takes the credit for discoveries that were mine". Wright says the whole group were jealous because she got invited to homes and eating places the others never saw.

The piquancy of these sweet-and-sour exchanges is fortified by the fact that both have places to fill on their next foray. Levy leaves on March 28 with a second Observer *tour which is "a very different kettle of fish — a crazy itinerary planned entirely to indulge my own whims". The basic tour costs £1,680, with an optional extra of going on to Taipei in Taiwan for afters. Wright's tour, departing on April 17, and priced at £1,550, has been opened to non-members and advertized in* Farmer's Weekly.



Myth and hit

Murray Grigor's exhibition of Scottish kitsch, pejoratively entitled Scotch Myths, was such a success at last year's St Andrews and Edinburgh festivals that now it is to be both a play and a film.

Grigor, a former director of the Edinburgh Film Festival, got the idea while pursuing a Bicentennial Year scholarship in Hollywood. "Everyone had this stereotype image of Scotland which derived from shortbread tins rather than reality", explained Grigor from his home by the Firth of Forth. "I attended the Long Beach Highland Games at which they played *Flower of Scotland* in conjunction with *God Save the Queen*, a pairing that would be unthinkable here."

Accordingly Scottish Myths assembled the evidence that Scotland was not only living in the past, but in an imagined past. It featured Sir Walter Scott, "Scotland's first director of tourism"; Harry Lauder, "the knobbly kneed Burns"; and thousands of postcards of "the Aegean of the North".

Breeksadoon, Grigor's first play, opens on February 9 in Perth and carries the idea forward by suggesting that all Scotland should be marketed like whisky, so that there is a Scott product, a Burns product and so on. Participants are taken on a castle tour of a fortress called Dundreich. It is a Scottish joke that dreich means utter drabness.

Scotland's film image will be explored more thoroughly at this year's Edinburgh Festival when "an astonishing number of kailyard films about lowland farms and bonnie briar bushes" will be shown along with the inevitable *Brigadoon* — Scotland seen through the eyes of a New York Jewish writer and an Italian director. Meanwhile Grigor, "a 100 per cent Highland blend from Inverness", hopes to be filming *Breeksadoon* for Channel 4.

Raj refit

India's palace on wheels, a pleasure train made up of the state carriages of Maharajahs, viceroys and governors-general, is being taken off the rails to be fitted with some comforts such dignitaries never knew.

The vintage train, a brainchild of Indian Railways and the tourist authorities in Rajasthan, includes the Bikaner state coach, built in 1898; the Maharajah of Navangar's coach with ornamental ceiling and Burma teak panelling; the Bhavnagar state palanquin; and a viceregal coach of pure white. All these, and eight similarly splendid saloons, were retrieved from sidings and railsheds around India, cleaned and restored, and set to ply a route passing Jaipur, Amber, Udaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and the Taj Mahal.

A few months' experience has convinced the operators that the trips must be discontinued in March. Punkhas and primitive electric fans will no longer suffice. If modern tourists are to enjoy the wonders of the Rajasthani desert they must have air-conditioning. So the moving railway museum is to be shunted off the lines for several months to be refitted.

PHS

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THE TIMES

P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone : 01-837 1234

WHO GUARD THE GUARDS?

The Treasury's skill at massaging numbers to suit any current expediency has long drawn the admiration of administrators, politicians and commentators alike. Rarely has it been more remarkably demonstrated than in its official submission to the Megaw Inquiry into Civil Service pay which has so far curiously escaped commentary.

Whatever its prime objective, one consequence of the Treasury's submission is to lay the arithmetical and philosophical foundations for the largest possible pay increase for civil servants, including those employed at the Treasury. Two obstacles stand in their way. First is the 4% pay target which the Treasury ministers announced at the start of this pay round. That, presumably, can be left to ministers themselves to explain away, if and when they concede. Second, and potentially more difficult, is the system of cash limits which many among a naive public take to be the bedrock of the Government's approach to public sector pay. The great contribution of the Treasury's submission is that it explains how the cash limit system can in fact be suspended in the particular case of the civil servants themselves who administer it. This explanation will be especially welcomed by the various other groups of public sector workers who have so far been told during wage negotiations that there is only a finite amount of money in the public kitty and that therefore their unions must accept the painful trade-off of job cuts for pay increases.

The civil service has wriggled out of this corset in two stages. During last year's pay dispute they shrewdly pressed Lord Soames, then the Minister responsible, and he conceded, that negotiations this time would not automatically be restricted from the beginning by a predetermined cash limit. That gave them a little more elbow room, though the Government then clearly reserved the right still to impose a limit such as 4 per cent in the national interest. The Treasury paper to Megaw *now* goes much further. While describing a settlement in excess of financial provisions as 'hypothetical' it spells out with commendable candour exactly how it and its civil service colleagues would, and presumably will, evade its own cash limit system: "The relevant cash limits can be increased by supplementary estimates presented to Parliament after the beginning of the financial year. The presumption would be that any increases in cash limits would be charged to the contingency reserve, and would not therefore add to the planned total of public expenditure for the year".

This statement is of considerable significance. It announces that the contingency reserve, which was introduced and has normally been used for such genuine emergencies as British Leyland and British Steel or for new policy initiatives during a financial year, is now in fact available to be raided to boost public sector pay. The Treasury may feel that this is not a great danger if the intention is that only civil servants will have access to the coffers. But it is not a reassuring principle that there is one law for the authors of the cash limit system and quite another for everyone else. In any case it is not clear that everyone else will or should accept this. Nurses, teachers, doctors, power workers who have been told in the past, and are now being told again, that the resources are finite, will now know that this is not true. They will all now know that they can strike for an extra slice of the contingency reserve — which next year will be around £3 billion. Once that game begins there is no reason why most or all of the reserve *should* not be grabbed for public sector pay — which would lead to a further deplorable distortion in the balance between current and capital expenditure.

There is absolutely no reason, apart from their privileged role in drafting and administering the relevant policies, why civil servants should enjoy privileged exemption from cash limits and privileged access to the contingency reserve. They already enjoy other privileges which workers in private industry and services have reason to envy. Over the past six years the pay for manual workers in national government service has increased substantially more than, and for non-manual a little more than, the average for the economy as a whole. As for unemployment, since Mrs Thatcher took office the number of jobs in public administration and defence has fallen by only 2½ per cent while it has fallen by 8 per cent in the economy as a whole.

The Chancellor presumably accepts his department's view that the 4 per cent pay target has been abandoned, that the contingency reserve is available to finance excessive public service pay settlements, and that civil servants are exempt from the system of cash limits which they administer. If not he should say so, inside his department and in public, and quickly.

DO-IT-YOURSELF DEVOLUTION

Reticence usually descends on the Northern Ireland office when it has an initiative in the oven. This time it is more like a cookery class. The ingredients are laid out, their properties discussed, the mixture tasted. The only reason for some uncertainty remaining about the dish is that the cooks are making up the recipe as they go along.

The general idea is that the province will be offered rolling, or do-it-yourself, devolution. The idea was invented back in Mr Humphrey Atkins's days by Dr Brian Mawhinney, an Ulsterman who is Conservative member of Parliament for Peterborough. Its theoretical merits are, first, that it does not require agreement of the parties to a cut-and-dried scheme of provincial government as a pre-condition for anything happening at all; and second, it would not necessarily be a total write-off (like the 1974 executive) if it met an accident and one of the co-drivers pulled out. At one stage the word "unboycottable" could be heard. But that temptation to fate has been dropped. The only sense in which anything is unboycottable in Ireland is the sense in which the Titanic was unsinkable.

As a way of getting something going, rolling devolution has a claim to be tried, the stationary sort having several times failed to get itself established. First of all there is an elected assembly, confined to deliberation and criticism. Power, executive and legislative, will be available from an à-la-carte menu, always provided that a sufficient measure of cross-community agreement is evident in the demand for each helping. In previous post-Stormont plans for devolution the test for this measure of agreement has been in the mind of the Secretary of State ("If it appears to the Secretary of State ... that a Northern Ireland Executive can be formed which, having regard to the support it commands ..., is likely to be widely accepted throughout the community" — Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973). This time Mr Prior is looking for a formula, a weighted majority within the assembly, such as to satisfy two conditions: the hurdle must be high enough to preclude an all-Protestant majority walking off with the prize, and not so high as to give one faction a permanent veto on movement.

It could be hard enough to hit on that magic number when the deputies are sitting in their places, let alone before they are elected. But if it can be found, it has the large advantage of allowing the parties as represented in the assembly to determine among themselves the pace and mode of provincial self-government. And, so it is hoped, once the first dose of power is taken addiction will follow and the price for larger doses, which is some sort of coalitionism, will be forthcoming.

Other associated ideas have come to the surface. One was to ease transition from the merely consultative to the executive phase by having the Secretary of State, as "chief executive" in the province, appoint members of the assembly or other Ulster worthies to executive posts in his entourage, junior ministers in fact. That has probably fallen down for constitutional reasons. Unless Parliament had already transferred executive responsibility to provincial shoulders it would not look kindly on the exercise of executive authority at the political level by persons who were not answerable to it.

One odd idea which floated into the press at the weekend is the restoration of the governorship of Northern Ireland, meant presumably as a sweetener for unionists. It is unlikely to be pursued at this stage. The office, representative of the monarchy, was popular with unionists, particularly its last incumbent Lord Grey of Naunton. But that was as part of the whole panoply of Stormont. Re-emergence of a governor now, as well as bruising to republicans, would be no more likely to reassure unionists than to put them in mind of one of the latter-day functions of governors, which is to prepare for the day when lesser royalty arrives to haul down the flag.

What reason is there to hope that Mr Prior will find an acceptable scheme of devolved government for recalcitrant recipients when all his predecessors since Mr Whitelaw have failed? First there is the man himself. He has more than made up for the disadvantage he created for himself by advertising his reluctance to take the job. He is now widely respected in Ulster as shrewd, strong-minded and a political heavy-weight. There is more momentum behind his attempt than at any time since 1973.

Second, the deterioration of Ulster's economy is so alarming that no well-intentioned public representative can be insensible of his duty to rally to its defence. The re-establishment of some kind of devolved administration broadly acceptable to both communities, though far from being a "solution" to the constitutional problems of the province, would undoubtedly assist economic survival by improving the context for inward investment, on which the employment and wealth of the province so much depend.

Third, the rudiments of trust between nationalists and unionists that cross-community devolution presupposes are all too easily shattered by the atrocities of republican violence. The outlook in that respect is better than for some time: numerous arrests in the North, large arms finds in the Republic, the curiosity of an IRA amnesty for informers, all suggest that the IRA is under exceptionally heavy pressure from security forces on both sides of the border.

And the reasons for fearing that Mr Prior will be no more successful than his predecessors? One is the shadow of the general election in the republic. Mr Haughey, the bookies' favourite, writes off in advance any proposals for running Northern Ireland that are internal to the province and are not in the context of high unity. The leaders of the SDLP in Northern Ireland are their own men, but the attitude of Dublin is one of the factors shaping their policies. A Fianna Fail government there would have a negative influence.

And then there is the fundamental difficulty that does not change. Coalition, partnership, power sharing, whatever name is given to it, is called upon to bridge the primary political divide, the deepest of them all, a contradiction of allegiances. When the identity of a society is split, when there are two mutually exclusive and equally passionate answers to the question. With whom do we belong?, when the issue is carried into a campaign of naked violence directed against the institutions of the state, and when external influences are directed towards undermining the status quo, no one should be surprised, still less morally contemptuous, if the elected representatives of the two incompatible allegiances shy away from forming a political alliance.

Right objectives

From the Editor of the Spectator

Sir, *The Times* Diary reported on Monday that the extreme right-wing historian, Mr David Irving, "plans a series of advertisements in newspapers and periodicals, including the *Spectator*, in which he will offer cash to branch secretaries of right-wing groups for their current mailing lists." His aim is reportedly to compile a computerized list of like-minded extremists.

While the *Spectator* is always reluctant to turn away advertising revenue (and even has in the past accepted small ads from Mr Irving offering free copies of features produced by his *Focal Point* magazine), we have rejected his latest advertisement. Not only are we profoundly out of sympathy with Mr Irving's objectives; we also doubt whether the *Spectator* is read by the "branch secretaries" he is hoping to reach.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER CHANCELLOR,
Editor,
Spectator,
56 Doughty Street, WC1.
February 2.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Battle over level of air fares

From Lady Burton of Coventry

Sir, At last we seem to have reached the stage when it is accepted that air fares in Europe are too high. But have we reached the next position, when airlines, governments and government organizations are willing to look at the reasons? I emphasize "willing".

Over past years when we have raised this matter we have always met with the response that (a) the fares were not too high; (b) comparisons with other countries or with the United States were not valid because conditions were *different; (c) it was not possible* to reach agreement.

There is no doubt that scheduled air fares are arranged between airlines and governments. In other words, governments, airlines and IATA (International Air Transport Association) are indistinquishable. Only the air traveller, the consumer, and the would-be consumer is excluded. National airlines' spheres of influence are *maintained* to the detriment of healthy competition, service to the consumer, and an economical fares structure.

Agreements between most countries, except for those in the United States of America and in some cases between the United Kingdom and France, provide for only one national carrier from each country. In no case within Europe is there open entry to an international route, and competition is frequently limited to the two national carriers. Competition on fares is restricted in many bilateral agreements.

We are now informed that the Government is to support the argument at the European Court of Justice put forward by Lord Bethell but that British Airways is in opposition. This seems unfortunate.

Surely there must be more scope for more competition and lower fares in Europe without going to the extreme of the United States domestic deregulation. Security charges, landing fees, air traffic control are items that come immediately to mind.

Mr Roy Watts (chief executive of British Airways) holds office this year as chairman of the Association of European Airlines: perhaps he and Lord Bethell together could be the catalyst in this saga which has gone on for far too long.

Yours faithfully,
BURTON OF COVENTRY,
House of Lords,
February 1.

From Mr Peter Martin

Sir, Neither Michael Baily's article on air fares (February 1) nor your leader recommending the formulation of a positive and distinctively European policy for air transport touch on the issue which is central to the whole debate.

At the risk of stating what is perhaps blindingly obvious to many, may I remind you that article 1 of the Chicago Convention, 1944, provides that the contracting states recognize that every state has complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above its territory. It is this principle of sovereignty, which allows states to regard traffic rights as a precious national asset to be exchanged only against equality of opportunity and, so far as possible, equality of benefits. Unless and until the principle of airspace sovereignty can be broken down, by acceptance or agreement, there can be no real hope of lowering European air fares by turning Europe into the single market which the United States is for domestic air transport purposes.

There can be little doubt that the rules of competition of the Treaty of Rome appear to support the idea that bilateral fares and rates fixing between states is contrary to the spirit, if not the letter, of article 85, but what is not clear is whether the provisions of the Treaty of Rome in this context override the principle established by article 1 of the Chicago Convention. It is this conflict that must be resolved before any progress can be made.

As travellers, all of us want lower air fares, and these particularly in Europe. Lord Bethell is a Hampden we should support, but I suspect that he is trying to plough his furrow with a trowel.

Yours truly,
PETER MARTIN,
As from: Reform Club,
Pall Mall, SW1.
February 1.

Lloyd's 'self-denying ordinance'

From Sir Philip de Zulueta

Sir, As a member of Lloyd's and former chairman of a holding company owning a Lloyd's broker I am distressed and surprised by the controversy which seems to have arisen concerning the so-called immunity clause in the Lloyd's Bill being discussed in the House of Commons on February 3.

Some people seem to look at Lloyd's as if it were the Stock Exchange, equating the underwriting names with investors on the stock market and Lloyd's brokers and underwriters with stockbrokers and jobbers. Others seem to assume that the Committee of Lloyd's resembles a professional regulatory body like the Bar Council or the Law Society.

These are quite misleading analogies. The members of Lloyd's are, collectively, the partners in the society but expressly undertake the risk of losses "each for his own part and not one for another". In so far as individuals succeed in making claims against the society all the members have to pay.. The committee are simply elected agents of the society and have no funds separate from those of the members, i.e., the society as a whole.

Lloyd's is a unique institution of great value to this country. All the members of Lloyd's are involved in underwriting risk business and it is, alas, inevitable that losses as well as profits will arise.

Obviously the Lloyd's Bill seeks to give no immunity against claims by policy holders. Nor does it protect the society against mistakes made by its servants in the ordinary course of their duties or in bad faith. All that is sought is protection of the society from individual members seeking to mitigate their own commercial losses by transferring the cost of these to all members.

It is surely most unreasonable to expect underwriting names, many of whom live abroad, to be liable for the commercial losses of other members even if these arise from negligence or breach *of duty, including breach of* Lloyd's regulations, by an underwriter or broker. Lloyd's can only function if members continue to accept responsibility for the acts of their agents.

The Lloyd's Bill does not attempt to avoid self-regulation: indeed the main object of the Bill is to modernise and strengthen the powers of the committee. But without the so-called immunity clause the danger is that the whole society could be harmed, particularly overseas, by individual members taking legal action against the society as a whole.

The overwhelming majority of members have accepted this point and agreed the clause. I hope that Parliament will not refuse to sanction this self-denying ordinance desired by the bulk of the members of a private, albeit nationally important, institution.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP DE ZULUETA,
3 Frederick's Place,
Old Jewry, EC2.
February 2.

Gas sources for Europe

From Mr John Purvis, MEP for Mid Scotland and Fife (Conservative)

Sir, Your editorial, "Tied in to Siberia" (January 26), is so right. It is the lack of a concerted European policy regarding energy, and gas in particular, that has made it necessary for Germany, France, Italy and Benelux to turn to Siberia and expose themselves to the risk of over-dependence on the USSR. The United Kingdom's aloofness is a contributory factor which could have long-term strategic repercussions.

The rational arrangement would be a European gas grid fed by gas from the northern North Sea, both Norwegian and British, the USSR and North Africa. The southern North Sea fields, both Dutch and British, could act as a reservoir. These fields produce "dry gas" (i.e., without oil) and can be replenished from the other sources so as to provide a seasonal and long-term buffer reserve.

By diversifying the sources of supply and ensuring a substantial buffer stock in the southern North Sea, the exposure to pressure from any one supplier is greatly diminished.

While Britain happily exports oil at world prices, she has not only insisted that all British-sector gas should be landed in the UK, but that it must be sold to the British Gas Corporation as a monopoly purchaser. The result has been little incentive to invest in exploiting gas reserves in the North Sea and it has discouraged the Norwegians from cooperating. Now it is forcing continental western Europe to look to Russia for its gas supplies.

On the face of it, Britain can say "'we're all right, Jack", but the strategic dependence of continental Europe on the USSR for gas, the possible differentials in gas prices that could open up and, in the end, even a risk of gas shortage in the UK, could well rebound to Britain's disadvantage. And without Norwegian gas the scope for on-shore petrochemical industries in the UK is reduced.

While the UK Government moves towards breaking BGC's monopoly, it should also open the export (and import) gates and show willingness to work with its EEC partners on gas policy if it is seriously concerned for the long-term assurance of gas and chemical feedstock supplies in Britain, the security of western Europe and the real meaning of European Community.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN PURVIS,
Gilmerton House,
Dunino,
St. Andrew's, Fife.

Mapping for the future

From Mr Roland Wade and others

Sir, In a recent leader (January 20), you rightly expressed concern at possible consequences of the Government's proposal to create a trading fund to finance the Ordnance Survey (OS). The ability of the OS to continue to produce its full range of maps and services could be seriously undermined if its financial basis were altered in this way.

But your leader understates the depth of anxiety these proposals are causing to a broad spectrum of interests. Not only are our own organizations disturbed at the OS's proposed change of financial status; but also we understand such bodies as the Royal Society, the Royal Geographical Society, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities and the Standing Committee of Professional Map-Users (whose members include the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Royal Town Planning Institute), have expressed reservations.

Moreover, there has been a new development since your leader was written. On January 20 the Environment Secretary told Parliament that his department's proposed contract with the OS will be subject neither to consultation with map users nor to approval by Parliament. This gives further weight to our concern.

The scope of that contract would define the level of the Exchequer's support to the survey; services remaining outside the contract would be left to stand or fall exclusively on their commercial merits. Many OS services should be judged on social rather than commercial criteria. They would undoubtedly suffer if they were excluded from the contract.

Nothing less than the future scope and quality of the country's mapping service is at stake. We urge the Government to reconsider its proposals.

Yours faithfully,
ROLAND WADE,
JOHN HUNT,
E. W. HIBBERD,
JOHN PARFITT,
Council for the Protection of Rural England,
4 Hobart Place, SW1.
January 26.

Land's End sale

From Professor Charles Thomas

Sir, Now that Land's End has been sold, perhaps some of the surrounding claims can be put in perspective. It is indeed encouraging that the National Trust can raise over £1m so speedily; but many of my fellow Cornish would agree that this could be better spent in acquiring other tracts of heritage coastline and that there has been a marked lack of enthusiasm, within Cornwall, for the trust's brief campaign.

The only real distinction of Land's End is the accident of its geographical position, and its current place name. It is otherwise only a typical section of granite cliff, much eroded by visitors, and backed by a noted environmental eyesore of which the Cornish are ashamed. It forms a monument already: to human insensitivity in the past and to the weaknesses of the pre-1974 area planning authority, one that was constantly criticised nationally for its decisions and locally for other and less charitably phrased allegations. The present county and district planning safeguards are quite capable of preventing any further horrors, even if some sheikh of Araby had come forward.

Land's End, a farming tenement with cliff grazing similar to about 100 others in Cornwall, emerges historically in the hands of a now extinct local family called Vingoe. It changed hands several times in the last two centuries and came into the possesion of the recent vendor's father, a distinguished soldier.

The Neave Hills are, I understand, Scottish; they are not Cornish. The label, "Master of Land's End", is first recorded, as far as I know, in a commercial guide published by Mr Charles Neave Hill in 1975. It is nowhere recognised in Cornish history and is presumably modelled on the (genuine) Scottish and Irish usages.

Since the Vingoes died out in the nineteenth century the "14 generations" claim is presumably on all fours with the "mastership", the retitling of the small hotel as "State House" and the revamped folklore about hereditary curses.

Good luck to the new owner, Mr Goldstone, whose reported comments are commendable and public-spirited. All he has bought, however, is a piece of coastline and a contentious tourist trap. The rest is moonshine.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES THOMAS,
Institute of Cornish Studies,
University of Exeter.
January 28.

Lay-off clause

From the Director General of the Engineering Employers' Federation

Sir, The Director-General of the Institute of Directors argues (February 2) against the inclusion of a lay-off clause in the Employment Bill.

The Engineering Employers' Federation has never suggested an indiscriminate right to lay off all employees when operations are paralysed by selective strike action. No sensible employer would wish to exercise such a right if he could overcome his difficulties in any other way. But it is necessary to look at the world as it really is.

Take the current British Rail/Aslef dispute. How can British Rail "harness the good will of the majority of its employees in order to overcome the problems"? With the best will in the world, members of the other rail unions cannot drive the trains. In such a case the influence of other unions and their members would be *much more likely to* be harnessed if it was plain that their members, too, would feel the immediate consequences of Aslef's action.

Like *The Times*, the EEF strongly regrets the omission from the Bill of this lay-off provision. We certainly do not lightly advocate this provision, but it is necessary to supply a remedy proportionate to the abuse. And, as you correctly pointed out in your leader of January 29, such a provision would do much to restore the balance of industrial power in disputes where small groups of workers are strategically placed to bring large organizations to a halt. We urge the Government to supply this necessary remedy.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ANTHONY FRODSHAM,
Engineering Employers' Federation.
Broadway House,
Tothill Street, SW1.
February 2.

The buyer's premium

From Mr E. B. Leisenring, Jr

Sir, In reference to your leading editorial, "Fair dealing in fine art", of January 16, I would like, as an American, to make a few observations.

First, it is incomprehensible how the buyer's premium could be "essentially a shoddy means of making the vendor believe that the auctioneer is taking a smaller cut on the sale of his goods than is in fact the case". How could the vendor possibly be ignorant of the parts and total of the commissions?

Second, members of my family, friends and associates of mine who have been long-standing buyers at Christie's and Sotheby Parke Bernet in New York, assure me that there has been precious little criticism of the addition of a buyer's premium at the New York auction houses. The raising and lowering of commissions is a part of doing business in a free enterprise system, something that a less than free enterprise system might do well to contemplate. To say as your edtorial did, that the buyer's premium "is a stain, even if a slight one, on Britain's reputation for fair dealing that they forced the charge on America" is met with disbelief from this side of the Atlantic.

I regret to conclude that the degree of slant against the auctioneers exhibited by London newspapers is such that it may be "a stain, even if a slight one" on the reputation for fair play enjoyed by London journalism.

Yours sincerely,
E. B. LEISENRING,
2500 Fidelity Building,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
United States.
January 22.

Lewis Carroll diaries

From Mr Roger Lancelyn Green

Sir, May I add a footnote to my friend Morton N. Cohen's admirable article on Lewis Carroll in your issue of January 23?

In 1950 the late Miss Menella Dodgson wrote to me on the strength of my first book about Lewis Carroll to ask if I would be interested in preparing an edition of her uncle's diaries. Being already deep in Carrollian studies I replied enthusiastically in the affirmative and went to visit her and her three surviving sisters at Leamington to discuss the project.

I was there shown the manuscript volumes of the diaries. There were four volumes missing, and Menella and her sisters told me that when their brother looked for the diaries at about the time of the centenary exhibition in 1932, he found them on the floor of the cellar in which the Lewis Carroll papers were stored.

It was decided that I was to edit the remaining nine volumes, filling in where necessary, and omitting as much as possible from the entries of no general, literary or Carrollian interest, to leave a work of publishable length. The result appeared in two volumes at the end of 1953.

I did not work directly from the manuscripts, for obvious reasons of safety, but from typescripts which Menella had made by a local typist. She assured me that they were absolutely complete, with the exception of vol. 8 (1862-64) which she typed herself, omitting certain passages which she considered too private for publication. She assured me that *none* of the omissions referred to Lewis Carroll, but to other members of the family, and were of a purely personal and private nature.

I see no reason to doubt Menella's word, supported by her sisters, Violet, Lucy and Gladys, whose friendship I valued greatly and retained until the end of their lives, visiting them frequently at Leamington, and subsequently at Wantage.

Yours truly,
ROGER LANCELYN GREEN
Poulton Hall,
Poulton-Lancelyn,
Bebington, Wirral.

Unversed

From Miss R. M. Howard

Sir, As a student who took the Associated Examining Board's O-level examination in English Literature last year, I find Mr Hope's letter (January 26) an unfair criticism of the board and one I am sure many people, including the board, would be quick to defend.

The board provide a large and varied selection of books, plays, prose and poetry from which a choice has to be made.

The literature to be studied is normally chosen by the teacher, therefore it is the teacher of Mr Hope's daughter who should be the subject of criticism and whom he must consider to be suffering from "apparent blindness or lack of judgment."

Yours faithfully,
R. HOWARD,
47 Lancaster Road,
North Harrow,
Middlesex.
January 26.

City limits

From Mr G. H. Neild

Sir, At Heathrow today I saw an Australian airliner named "City of Townsville". Even by the new standards of near-English this must be some sort of record tautology.

Yours sincerely,
G. H. NEILD,
17 Camberwell Grove, SE5.
February 1.

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 2: The Prince of Wales this morning opened the Crafts Council Gallery and Information Centre at 12 Waterloo Place, SW1.

Major John Winter was in attendance.

His Royal Highness, President, this evening gave a Reception for The Prince's Trust Advisory Council at Buckingham Palace.

The Prince of Wales, Patron, the British Film Institute, accompanied by The Princess of Wales, attended a dinner at 11 Downing Street, SW1.

The Hon Edward Adeane and the Hon Mrs Vivian Baring were in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, Colonel in Chief, Royal Corps of Signals, this morning at Gatcombe Park received Major-General A. A. G. Anderson upon his appointment as Representative Colonel Commandant.

CLARENCE HOUSE

February 2: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this evening visited Canada House and opened the new Cultural Centre.

The Hon Mrs John Mulholland and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N. L. Buckley and Miss J. M. Johnston

The engagement is announced between Norman, elder son of Mr and Mrs Leonard T. Buckley, of Sydney, New South Wales, and Julia, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Duncan Johnston, of London, SW10

Mr L. Burton and Dr H. L. Evans

The engagement is announced between Lee, son of Mr and Mrs I. Burton, North Cray, Kent, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs L. Evans, The Rhos, Pembrokeshire.

Mr A. M. Crookes and Miss J. Crook

The engagement is announced between Alan Michael, son of Mr and Mrs B. A. Crookes, of Kegsworth, *Leicestershire*, and Jane, daughter of Dr and Mrs G. T. Crook, of Brentwood, Essex.

Mr P. S. Coombes and Miss C. J. P. Baker

The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Mrs A. J. Coombes of Leicester, and the late Mr J. W. Coombes, and Joanna, only daughter of Mr and Mrs C. T. H. Baker, of Canterbury, Kent.

Mr C. A. M. Chittenden and Miss R. L. Collison

The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of the late Mr N. G. Chittenden and Mrs Nigel Martin, of Edgecombe, Abinger Common, Surrey, and Rosamund, younger daughter of Colonel and Mrs R. C. S. Collison, of Stratford Tony House, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Dr A. R. C. Cummin and Dr A. R. E. Lee

The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of the late Mr R. C. Cummin, F.R.C.O.G, and Dr O. J. Cummin, of Penarth, and Anna, daughter of Mr E. Stanley Lee, M.S., F.R.C.S, and Mrs Lee, of Benenden, Kent.

Mr A. D. K. Wood and Mrs A. E. Colchin

The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of the late Cdr. W. K. Wood and of Mrs E. M. Wood, of *Lavenham*, Suffolk, and Ann, twin daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Gilmour, of Park Farm, Old Buckenham, Norfolk.

Mr F. J. F. M. Dymoke and Miss R. M. Goldingham

The engagement is announced between Francis, eldest son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs John Dymoke, of Scrivelsby Court, Lincolnshire, and Rosalie, daughter of Major and Mrs Antony Goldingham, of Angeston Grange, Uley, Gloucestershire.

Luncheons

H M Government

Mr Neil Marten, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister for Overseas Development, was host at a luncheon held at Admiralty House yesterday in honour of Mr M Fujioka, President of the Asian Development Bank. Other guests included:

Viscount Cranborne, Mr P Shelbourne, Mr S Ebutne, Mr R A Browning, Mr R W Woolton, Mr Y Kamihara, Mr D L Stanton and Miss P Hilton.

Chartered Institute of Transport

The Chartered Institute of Transport held a luncheon yesterday in honour of Mr Iain Sproat, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Trade, at the Connaught Rooms. Mr J. G. Davis, president of the institute, presided.

Dinner

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

Professor A. H. Beckett, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, presided at a dinner held at the society's headquarters, Lambeth High Street, last night. The principal guest and speaker was Mr Peter Hignett and Mr D. R. Knowles also spoke. Other guests included:

Lord Wakefield of Kendal, His Honour Sir Carl Aarvold, Sir Hugh Linstead, Mr Alastair Porter, Professor Rosalinde Hurley, Professor E A Bevan, Dr Ian Munro, Dr Peter Main, Dr T. E. Gibson and Mr P. B. Turner.

Service dinner

Naval Regional Officers

A dinner was held in HMS Nelson last night to mark the retirement of Captain W. R. D. Gerard-Pearse. Captain M. C. Henry presided and Captains G. Hayne, R. D. Franklin and R. L. Garnons-Williams were among those present.

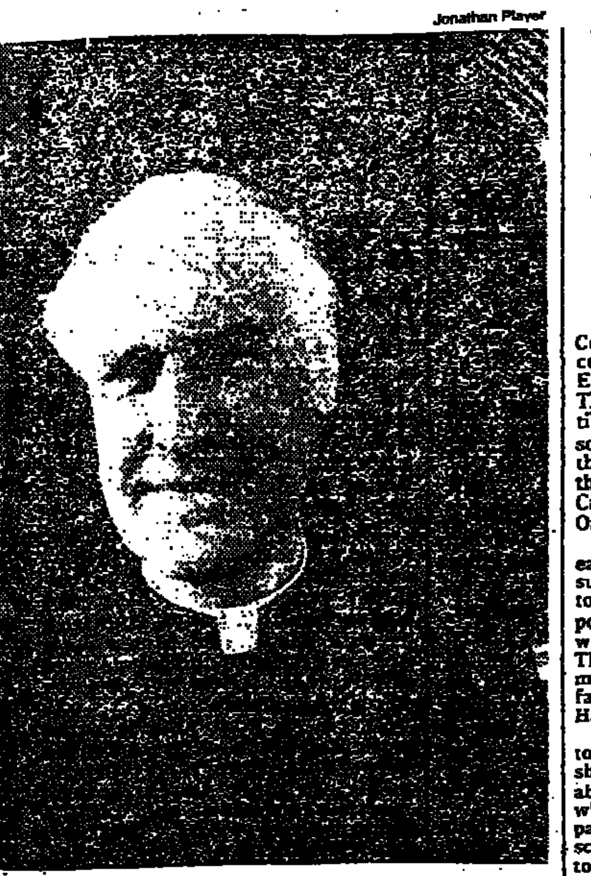
Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:

Mr A. C. D. S. MacRae, aged 44, head of the West African Department in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to be British Ambassador (non-resident) to Chad, in succession to *Mr J. R. Johnson*.

Mr Neville Gaffin, aged 50, the Prime Minister's deputy chief press secretary, to be head of information at the Department of Education and Science.

Jonathan Player



New archbishop

Father Maurice Couve de Murville, aged 52, the senior Roman Catholic chaplain at Cambridge University, will be installed as Archbishop of Birmingham on March 25, it was announced yesterday. He succeeds the Most Rev George Dwyer, aged 72, who sought permission last year to retire early because of ill health.

The new archbishop (seen yesterday in front of St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham), is distantly related to the former French Prime Minister of the same name.

His father was a student in England and served in the Royal Flying Corps in the First World War and the family later settled in France, where the archbishop designate was born. He came to England at the age of seven to be educated and read history at Trinity College, Cambridge, between 1947 and 1950.

On a brief visit to the archdiocese yesterday he promised he would encourage the work of the Birmingham Oratory for the canonization of Cardinal Newman before the centenary of his death in 1990.

Delft tiles of Popish Plot fetch £1,210 each

By Geraldine Norman Sale Room Correspondent

Collectors were out in force competing intensely at Sotheby's English ceramics sale yesterday. There were three London Delft tiles of extreme rarity illustrating scenes from the "Popish Plot", the imaginary conspiracy to kill the king and establish a Roman Catholic ministry to which Titus Oates "confessed" in 1678.

The three tiles fetched £1,210 each, where Sotheby's had been suggesting a price of about £400 to £600. Two bidders fought for possession of them but all three went to the same purchaser. They are thought to have been made about 1680, possibly in the factory of Jan Ariens van Hamme.

The short-lived Pinxton factory, which operated in Derbyshire from the early 1790s to about 1810, received an accolade when a semicircular crocus pot painted with an attractive rural scene made £1,100 (estimate £300 to £500).

Another notable price was £1,760 (estimate £500 to £600) paid for a pearlware dessert service finely painted with botanical specimans at the Davenport factory between 1798 and 1815.

The only weak spot in the auction was the more run-of-the-mill English Delftware. Only 9 per cent of the sale was left unsold, a good record for recessionary times.

University news

Oxford

Elections

CHRIST CHURCH: To research lecturerships, R J Leatherbarrow, BSc, Exeter College, P R Morison, BA, Wolfson College, N Rankin, BA, M Phil, Christ Church and Nuffield College, G Statham, BSc, Magdalen College.

ORIEL COLLEGE: To scholarship, K B Frost, exhibitioner.

BRASENOSE COLLEGE: To Platnauer junior research fellowships in natural sciences, Dr Rosa Beddington, formerly Senior Hulme Scholar of the college, physiology (from October 1 1982). Dr David Cooper, formerly Senior Hulme Scholar of the college, in chemistry (from October 1 1983).

CHRIST CHURCH: Boulter exhibitions: R J Brooks, commoner (English), Hon P J T Lawrence, commoner, and R J Maniura, Commoner (philosophy, politics and economics).

Leicester

Honorary degree will be conferred upon the following:

Sir Anthony Alment (DSc), William Alwyn (DMus), James Carr (MA), Derrick Dunn (MA), Christian Lady Hesketh (LLD), and Iris Murdock (DLitt).

Bath

Grants

Science and Engineering Research Council and GEC Measurements: £206,394 to Dr A T Johns for his research into the protection of EHV/UHV electric power transmission systems; Science and Engineering Research Council: £151,000 to Professor H O Berktay, Dr R Cloet, Dr S L Hurst, Mr P J Wingham and Dr J F Henderson for their research on seabed surveying.

Heriot-Watt

Appointment

Lecturer: Mrs Lorna H Thomson, BA (Strathclyde), DipEconDev (Oxford), economics.

Princess chooses Welsh and child interests

The Princess of Wales has agreed to become patron or president of five groups, all connected with children or with Wales, Buckingham Palace announced today.

They are the Royal School for the Blind, the Welsh National Opera, the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, the Pre-School Playgroups Association and the Albany, a community centre in Deptford, south-east London, that deals with children at risk, of which she is to become president.

The palace said the princess had received more than 150 requests to become patron or president of charities.

"It was considered unwise for her to accept too many too soon. The princess therefore decided to start with a few so she could do them justice and see how her responsibilities in this field might work out. At the end of the year she will consider what further organizations she might take on," a spokesman said.

The Albany has always been very close to the Royal Family's heart. The late Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, a grandchild of Queen Victoria, was its president for 58 years.

The Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for children undertakes schemes in the Duchy of Cornwall.

At the Young England Kindergarten, where the princess formerly worked, Mrs Victoria Wilson, the headmistress, said she was very pleased that the Pre-school Playgroups Association was among the chosen five. "It really is the obvious choice. It is something she enjoyed doing and was very good at. We are all delighted here", she said.

The princess continues a long line of royal patrons with the Royal School for the Blind in Leatherhead, beginning in 1839 with Queen Victoria.

Birthdays today

Lord Redcliffe-Maud, who is 76.

Sir Anthony Alment, 60; the Earl of Antrim, 47; Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, 71; Lord Gore-Booth, 73; Mr Iain B. Hamilton, 62; the Marquess of Huntley, 74; Sir Edgar keatinge, 77; Sir Hugh Linstead, 81; Brigadier the Hon Dame Mary Pihl, 66; Professor Sir Alexander Robertson, 74; Lord Sherfield, 78; Mr Glen Tetley, 56; Mr Frankie Vaughan, 54; Mr A. J. Watson, 41.

Cancer victim graduates from Open University

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

A cancer victim who was once given only two years to live and a former prison officer who left school without any O or A-levels are among 6,000 mature students who graduated from the Open University this year.

Mr Christopher Knight, aged 44, of Burnham, Buckinghamshire, discovered he had cancer shortly after being accepted by the Open University (OU). After many spells in hospital, a period of blindness, surgery, radiotherapy, and "tremendous help" from OU counsellors he pulled through, however, got his degree and now works as a post-design service engineer with Thorn-EMI.

Mr John Cochrane, aged 31, of Woodley, Berkshire, left school with no GCE qualifications and realized he was good at mathematics only when he started his OU studies, he says. He attributes his success in changing career from prison officer to systems analyst to his OU studies.

Mr Knight and Mr Cochrane were in London this week to attend a press conference called by the OU to announce this year's successes, which bring the grand total of OU graduates since 1972, the first year of graduation, to more than 51,000.

Dr John Horlock, the OU's new vice-chancellor, said that the university now had 62,000 undergraduates, plus 25,000 students on continuing education courses, and a further 5,000 managers and engineers on the university's special microprocessor courses, bringing the total student enrolment to nearly 100,000.

Of this year's graduates, 15 per cent were drawn from manual and routine non-manual occupations, double the proportion in 1975. Nearly a third of this year's applicants are from the working class.

About a quarter of this year's graduates had entry qualifications of less than two A levels, the normal requirement for the conventional university. About one in ten had left school at 15, and 4 per cent had no educational qualifications at all. Nearly 40 per cent of this year's applicants had no A level qualifications.

Latest wills

£36,828 residue for home help

Mr Albert Henry Laraman, of Rochester, an electrical charge-hand, left estate valued at £37,078 net. After a personal bequest of £250 he left the residue to Mrs Morna Bourner, his home help, who visited him each day for the six years that he was a housebound invalid.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Grimshaw, Mrs Constance Elizabeth, of Budleigh Salterton, Devon £212,275

Mallon, Mrs Stella Katherine, of Princes Risborough, Warden of Toynbee Hall, 1919-54 ... £302,039

Sigmund, Mrs Huberta Anna, of Henley-on-Thames .. £247,569 net

Wilkinson, Mr Frank Gardner, of Lymm, Cheshire.......... £256,514

Wilde, Muriel Agnes, of West Kirby, Merseyside £221,335

25 years ago

From The Times of Friday February 1, 1957

More than twopence coloured

Members of both Houses of Parliament have now been given a demonstration of colour television. The exact object of the exercise is not very clear but if it was to persuade them to be patient so much the better. For there are two main questions about colour television—When? and How?—and a rough answer to the first is easily given: "Not for a very long time." There are all the usual pressures to get something new, like colour television, going. They are healthy. It is even healthier at present to resist them. Adding colour to monochrome transmissions is bound to be very expensive at both ends of the operation. Experience in America has shown there is no overwhelming public demand.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev E C Pogmore, asst curate of Calne, diocese of Salisbury, to be Priest in the Oakdale team ministry, same diocese.

The Rev J G Pollock, Vicar of St Matthias, Preston, Brighton, diocese of Chichester, to be Vicar of Yatton Moor, diocese of Bath and Wells.

The Rev P W M Revell, Vicar of Quorn, diocese of Leicester, to be Team Rector of the Camelot team ministry, diocese of Bath and Wells.

The Rev J G Ridyard, Team Vicar of St Mark, in the Wolverhampton team ministry and Missioner of St Peter's House, diocese of Lichfield, to be Vicar of Brewood and Bishopswood, same diocese.

The Rev C F E Rowley, asst curate of St Peter, Parkstone with St Osmund, Branksea, diocese of Salisbury, to be Team Vicar of St Peter, Parkstone, with St Osmund, Branksea team ministry, same diocese.

The Rev S M Sandham, Vicar of the United Benefice of St Mark with St Paul, Darlington, diocese of Durham, to be Vicar of St Chads, Sunderland, same diocese.

The Rev R Sharpe, Vicar of Redlynch and Morgans Vale, diocese of Salisbury, to be also Rural Dean of Alderbury, same diocese.

The Rev A H Yates, Vicar of St Thomas, Middlesbrough, diocese of York, to be Vicar of Christ Church, Fenton, diocese of Lichfield.

The Rev M. J. Webb, Priest in Charge of St Peter, Arkley, diocese of St Albans, to be Vicar of St Hilda, Marden in the Cullercoats team ministry, diocese of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Moreover. . . Miles Kington

Carbon paper.

Doesn't look much, does it?

Just a sheet of nondescript paper which dirties your hands and makes marks on your clean shirt cuffs.

Oh yes, it's very easy to make fun of carbon paper. All that effort stuffing it between your ordinary writing paper and getting it the right way round, when it's so much easier to get copies out of a photomachine. Or a word so-called processor. Or any of the magic electronic aids which are supposedly going to make our life so much happier.

And yet, you know, electricity may have run out completely by the year 1998. A recent survey showed that there is only enough natural electricity in the world to run the music centres and data processors *already manufactured* for another twenty years[1]. And how will we get copies then?

Good old-fashioned carbon paper is suddenly going to look pretty good. Completely self-powered, ecologically sound and complying with all noise abatement requirements, carbon paper may well come back into its own as early as 1989[2]. Small wonder if some firms are already reverting to a carbon paper-geared economy[3].

Did you know that there are enough deposits of carbon existing naturally in Britain to feed the entire memorandum industry till AD 2,500 at the earliest? That South Wales, Lanarkshire and parts of Geordieside are so rich in natural carbon that the landscape itself is black with thumb prints? And that over 87,000 people are still fully employed in mining the carbon or spraying its derivative on to sheets of paper? Or that the Black Type Mills Band recently came second in the Belgian Brass Championships?

Once upon a time Britain led the world in carbon paper technology: It isn't often enough remembered that Lincoln's Gettysburg Address (No 1, The Avenue, Gettysburg) was rushed round the world on British carbon paper. As was Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* and Stephen Foster's *Massa's In De Coal Coal Ground*[4].

Just for a moment, carbon paper is the poor relation of Britain's file copy industry. We admit that[5]. But we are so confident that carbon paper will come back, that we have invested over £8m in new pits in the carboniferous areas of Yorkshire and North Wales, where research teams of touch typists and coffee-break technicians have reported significant new breakthroughs.

And don't forget that carbon paper dating gives much better results than any comparable method. We can tell to within a fortnight when any given letter was written. Failing which, carbon paper dating *could* fix you up with the escort of a lifetime!

But enough of words, if that is possible. If you would like to test the efficacy of carbon paper, simply write to the sponsors of this advertisement and we will send back a carbon copy of your letter by return of post, or later, if our secretaries are snowed under.

Remember. Carbon paper is not just the method of the past. It could also replace the new technology. It better had. Otherwise this ad has been a waste of money. (*Sponsored by the Carbon Paper Marketing Board and National Union of Copy Miners.*)

1. "The Coal-Powered Cassette Recorder: A Feasibility Study" NUCM Press.
2. Carbon Paper News, Vol 2, No 11.
3. eg J. F. Wilkinson, Black Pudding Makers of Macclesfield.
4. Black Music Press of Washington.
5. "We Admit That". Booklet issued by Carbon Paper Marketing Board.

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR P. S. FLORENCE

Studies in town and country planning

Philip Sargant Florence, Professor of Commerce in the University of Birmingham from 1929 to 1955, died on January 29 at the age of 91. He was a former Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Social Science.

Philip Sargant Florence was an American citizen who passed most of his life in this country. He was born on June 25 1890 at Nutley, in the state of New Jersey. His upbringing and education, however, were mainly British. He went to Rugby School, to Cambridge, where he read economics, and to New York, where he took his doctorate at Columbia University.

In New York he married in 1917 the American, Lella Faye Secor, who became the indispensable companion of his later life in England. They had two sons. She died in 1966.

Florence returned to Cambridge in 1921, as one of the university lecturers in economics. He had begun to publish and followed his *Economics Fatigue and Unrest* (1924) with a treatise on *The Statistical Method in Economics and Political Science* (1929). He was becoming an obvious candidate for a chair and when J. F. Rees (later Sir Frederick Rees) left the Commerce Faculty at the University of Birmingham in 1929 to become Principal of the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, Florence succeeded him in the chair of Commerce.

At Birmingham, Florence found scope for research into the organization of trade and industry and for the cultivation of a wide range of interests within the social sciences which he might have found it difficult to indulge in the Cambridge of his day, where work in economics was developing towards the important theoretical constructions associated with name of Keynes rather than in the direction of applied economics.

Out of Florence's new investigations came his *Logic of Industrial Organization* (1933) and the interesting report upon consumers' cooperation in Great Britain, in which he collaborated with Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders and others, published in 1938. He maintained an active interest at this period in local and national politics as a member of the Labour party, although he did not go into public life.

As his university activities expanded and he became well known in the Midlands, Florence might have continued in the path he had chosen for many years, but for the outbreak of war in 1939. The declaration of war by Italy and the closing of the Mediterranean which followed found him in Egypt, as visiting professor at the university of Cairo.

As American citizens, he and his wife were evacuated to the United States, where Florence acted for a while as a consultant to the National Resources Planning Board, but returning to this country during the war, he and his wife joined the staff of the American Ambassador, Mr John Winant, at Grosvenor Square.

Florence soon resumed university duties and undertook to direct extensive investigations in the Midlands connected with post-war reconstruction, especially town and country planning. The result was a number of books published after the war; *County Town* (1946) which was a study of the city of Worcester, *English County* (1947), an inquiry into the industries of Herefordshire, and *Conurbation*, a report on the complicated tasks of regional planning in Birmingham and the Black Country. The extent of Florence's contributions as editor and author to these different investigations varied, but they proved congenial to his love of detailed and ingenious research and were in many ways models of what such work ought to be.

The development of the social sciences in the University of Birmingham owed much to Florence and not only because of his personal researches. He was chairman for many years of its committee on social studies being the body in charge of the training of professional social workers and he was Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Social Science from 1947 to 1950, when important new developments took place.

Florence was an economist who took a marked interest in the sociological aspects of his subject and he was an enterprising and skilful practitioner in the art of applied economics, although relatively indifferent to theoretical and historical inquiries.

He remained active as a writer, lecturer and Consultant into old age. From 1957 to 1963 he presided over the Greater Birmingham Employment Committee. He was made an honorary CBE in 1952. He received several honorary degrees.

He was a delightful and witty companion, a man of wide interests both intellectual and artistic and many acquaintances. Both he and his wife thoroughly enjoyed and understood the art of hospitality and the lively and amusing society of their house in Birmingham will be happily remembered as long as any persons survive who once knew it.

MR C. M. WEEKLEY

Mr. C. M. Weekley, FSA, formerly Officer-in-Charge of the Bethnal Green Museum, London, died in hospital in London on January 30. He was 81.

Charles Montague Weekley, only son of Professor Ernest Weekley, of University College, Nottingham, the eminent philologist and popular writer on etymology, was born on June 15, 1900. His mother was Baroness Frieda von Richthofen, of Metz, a cousin of the famous "Red Baron", the German flying ace of the First World War. Her elopement in 1912 with the writer D. H. Lawrence, whom she subsequently married, was to leave a severe emotional scar on a sensitive man.

After education at St Paul's School, where he was a scholar and leaving exhibitioner, and St John's College, Oxford (where he won his Blue for the mile), he worked briefly for Yardley and Courtaulds but in 1924 entered the department of circulation at the Victoria and Albert Museum. He was to join the museum at the same time as his lifelong friend Charles Oman whose own obituary appeared in *The Times* on January 29. Weekley was to edit Oman's book on English silver in the "*Library of English Art*" series of which he was general editor.

In the Second World War he served with several Ministries. Having made a complete recovery from tuberculosis, he was appointed Officer-in-Charge of the Bethnal Green Museum in 1946. He completely reorganized the galleries, rationalized the collections and presented an effective selection of paintings and objects of English make, silver, glass, ceramics and so forth, demonstrating the history of English craftsmanship. A particular joy to him was to be able to improve and add to the now-famous Children's Section which attracts visitors from all over the world.

His interest extended to minutiae and among his published work was a definitive biography of Thomas Bewick, the Northumbrian wood engraver published by OUP in 1953. Before this he had written a biography of William Morris in Duckworth's "Great Lives" series.

An ardent Londoner, he had intended to write and made many notes for a history of the City which he hoped to call *The Square Mile*. He was active mentally and physically to within a short time of his death. His wife, formerly Vera Ross, the landscape and figure artist, died in 1973. He leaves a daughter, son and three grandchildren.

LIGHTNIN' HOPKINS

Sam (Lightnin') Hopkins, the blues singer and guitarist died in Houston, Texas, on January 27. He was 69.

Hopkins, a contemporary of some of the great names in blues: Muddy Waters, B. B. King and John Lee Hooker, was a singer in the grand style of country blues and was perhaps the last of the great exponents of the idiom.

Hopkins was born in Centerville, Texas, on March 15, 1912. He started singing under the influence of his cousin, Texas Alexander, and Blind Lemon Jefferson, but for many years worked on a farm, playing and singing as a pastime, entertaining farmers at Saturday night dances. It was here that his loose style of guitar playing and his characteristic gravelly voice were developed.

Later he moved to Houston where he began to take himself more seriously as a musician. He made his first recordings in Houston in 1946 and later that year also travelled to Los Angeles to record there. But he soon returned to Houston and spent much of the 1950s, wandering its streets as an itinerant, seldom moving outside the state of Texas.

Subsequently he went to New York and Chicago on recording dates and later played at Carnegie Hall as well as touring Britain and Europe playing to large audiences. But in general he gave the impression of preferring the streets of Houston where his highly individual style, reaching out and touching those who listened to him, seemed the natural expression of an imagination playing on his personal experience.

Lady King, widow of Colonel Sir Edwin King, KCB, CMG, died on January 21. She was Geneviève, daughter of Alfred Henry, of Tilques, France, and she was married in 1937. Her husband died in 1952.

Colonel Cecil Alexander Tollemache Halliday, OBE, late The Royal Hampshire Regiment, who was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Hampshire in 1956, died on January 22. He was 73.

Law Report February 3 1982

Chancery Division

Losses that cut tax bill

Cooper (Inspector of Taxes) v C. & J. Clark Ltd

Before Mr Justice Nourse

[Judgment delivered February 2]

Losses of £96,587 sustained by a shoe manufacturer from a few dealings over a short period in the gilt-edged security market could be said to arise from a trade carried on by the company and accordingly could be deducted from its profits for corporation tax purposes.

Mr Justice Nourse so held in dismissing an appeal by the Crown from a decision of general commissioners in Somerton, Somerset who had upheld C. & J. Clark Ltd's appeal against an assessment to corporation tax for 1976 and reducing it from £1,847,984 to £1,751,397.

Clark's was a manufacturer of boots and shoes. In 1976 it had cash of £1m surplus to its immediate requirements and approached Schroder Wagg & Co for investment advice. It being suggested that short term gilt-edged securities could produce returns of 15 per cent. Clark's instructed the bankers to invest the money in the securities from April to December, 1976. Because of an unprecedented increase in minimum lending rates the market fell and Clark's suffered the loss of £96,587

Mr J. E. Holroyd Pearce, QC and Mr Michael Hart for the Crown; Mr Andrew Park, QC for C. & J. Clark.

MR JUSTICE NOURSE said that Clark's case was that the loss arose from a separate trade carried on by it of dealing in securities and not, as the Crown argued, from a temporary investment of money surplus to requirements.

To succeed in the appeal the Crown had to show that on the facts the true view of the matter was that the loss arose from temporary investment not amounting to trade and that that was the only conclusion which the commissioners could reasonably have reached.

From the decided cases principles could be deduced that were material in deciding a case where purchases and sale of marketable securities were made by a company not normally engaged in that kind of business. Such securities, being income-yielding assets, were prima facie purchased and sold by way of investment and not by way of trade. However a series of purchases and sales carried out pursuant to a deliberate scheme might amount to a trade.

Had the court's function simply been to decide the case on the facts as they appeared, his Lordship said that he doubted whether he would have concluded that the loss arose from a separate trade: the purchases and sale, at most 13, were markedly insignificant in relation to Clark's other activities.

But the test was whether the conclusion that the commissioners had reached was the only one open to them. The case just fell within what Lord Simon of Glaisdale described in *Ransom v Higgs* ([1974] 1 WLR 1594, 1619) as the "no-man's land" of fact and degree where it was for the commissioners to evaluate whether a particular activity amounted to a trade.

It had been open to the commissioners to conclude that the dealings, intended to last only nine months, did amount to a separate trade carried on by Clark's

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Slaughter & May

Diverting footpaths

Lake District Special Planning Board, Ex parte Bernstein

Section 119 (diversion of footpaths and bridleways) of the Highways Act 1980, was concerned with moving the line of an existing footpath, and the consequent extinguishment of the old way, and the whole section clearly contemplated its diversion to a new path, and not to another existing right of way, Mr Justice Hodgson held in the Queen's Bench Division on January 29.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the board were correct in law in the exercise of their discretion not to grant Mr Bernstein's application for closure or diversion of a footpath which went through his garden, although there was another footpath adjacent to his property.

Queen's Bench Division

Casino loses cheque case

Ladup Ltd v Shaikh and Another

Before Mr Justice McCowan

[Judgment delivered January 28]

A gaming casino which knowingly accepted a cheque from a customer that had been given to him by another casino in respect of a gaming debt, and which was accordingly illegal, could not rely on section 16(4) of the Gaming Act 1968 in order to bring an action when that cheque was subsequently dishonoured.

Section 16 relates to the provision of credit for gaming and subsection (4) provides: "Nothing in the Gaming Act 1710, the Gaming Act 1835, the Gaming Act 1845 or the Gaming Act 1892 shall affect the validity of, or any remedy in respect of, any cheque which is accepted in exchange for cash or tokens to be used by a player in gaming to which this part of this Act applies".

Mr Justice McCowan held in the Queen's Bench Division that the plaintiffs, Ladup Ltd, owners of the Ladbroke Casino Group could not recover £45,000 from the first defendant, Mr Nadeem H. Shaikh, the endorser of a cheque in their favour which was subsequently dishonoured, or from the second defendants, Ritz Casino Ltd as drawers of the cheque which was made payable to the first defendant.

Mr Gareth Williams, QC and Mr Peter Birts for plaintiffs; Mr Nicholas Strauss for the first defendant; Mr Peter Irvin for the second defendants.

MR JUSTICE McCOWAN said that Mr Shaikh had visited the Ritz Casino and obtained a number of chips with bank drafts. After he had lost £40,000 he exchanged his remaining chips for a cheque for £45,000 marked "a/c payee only, not negotiable". He went to the plaintiffs' casino, where he had outstanding gaming debts of £87,000, and asked the credit manager to change his cheque for chips.

The manager telephoned the Ritz, and although they told him that they would not pay on the cheque if Mr Shaikh's own drafts were not met, he agreed to accept the cheque, endorsed in favour of the plaintiffs, on condition that they retain £7,500 in reduction of the existing debts of Mr Shaikh and his brother and give him chips to the value of £37,500. The Ritz later discovered that the drafts would not be met and took steps to see that the cheque would not be paid.

The plaintiffs had agreed that but for section 16(4) of the Gaming Act 1968 they would have to concede that the cheque was founded on an illegal consideration by virtue of section 1 of the Gaming Act 1710 and section 10 of the Gaming Act 1835, but had argued that section 16(4) applied if, as they submitted, they had accepted the cheque lawfully within section 16(1) and (2), and that the section removed the obstruction placed by section 81 of the Bills of Exchange Act 1882. That provided that a person who took a crossed cheque marked "not negotiable" could not have, or be capable of giving, a better title to the cheque than the person had from whom he took it.

However, it could not have been the intention of the 1968 legislation to override the provisions of section 81; very much clearer language would have been needed for that. When section 16(4) said that the earlier Gaming Acts did not affect any remedy in respect of a cheque, it meant that it did not reduce the remedy; it also meant that it did not increase it.

The Gaming Acts had already taken effect on the cheque when the drawer gave it to the payee. He could not sue on it, and the plaintiffs by section 81 could have no better title to the cheque than the person from whom they took it.

Accordingly section 81 governed the present case. Should his Lordship be wrong on that point then the cheque had not been accepted lawfully within the meaning of section 16(1) and (2) of the Gaming Act 1968 in that the plaintiffs had given credit for £7,500 in respect of losses incurred by Mr Shaikh and his brother, so section 16(4) could not be relied upon in any event. It followed that the plaintiffs had no cause of action against either defendant.

Solicitors: Mr D. J. Millikin Willesden; Gershon Young Finer & Green; M. J. Kusel & Co.

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Cinema: Manila Festival

Where charity begins abroad

It was a fine festival for the visitors, reports **David Robinson,** but not so good for local talent. Today they try to get rid of the 'ancient beauty queen' who leads the censors . . .

The first Manila International Film Festival sustained its momentum to the end. The spectacle and hospitality were on a scale with which no festival within memory has ever competed, and were constantly enlivened by the unpredictable improvisations of the volatile First Lady of the Philippines, Imelda Marcos. The extravagance and the determined effort to woo the American moguls were not however appreciated by those local film-makers who complain of official discouragement to development of a serious Filipino cinema, and who tended as a result to cold-shoulder the event.

At another level of hostility towards the festival, terrorist threats of bombs and assassinations happily came to naught; and the worst that happened to the guests was to be pelted with flowers at the closing night gala. There was however the excitment of a small earthquake, during the second reel of the Canadian film. Most of the audience (no doubt thinking it was Sensurround) sat the tremor out. The sissies among us, remembering that the great festival palace had been built in a matter of weeks, made a rapid exit as the chandeliers tinkled overhead; but the building proved equal to the shock.

The 21 films in competition maintained a very creditable standard. More than one third were debut works, and the jury unanimously voted the Grand Prix to one of these, *36 Chowringhee Lane*, directed by Aparna Sen, already known as an exceptionally gifted actress. Her film is assured and resourceful, comparable in achievement and stature, as well as theme, with De Sica's *Umberto D*.

The film was produced by the well-known Indian star, and scion of a famous movie dynasty, Shashi Kapoor, whose wife Jennifer Kendall (sister of Felicity) plays the leading role. By some miracle of dramatic innovation, the beautiful Miss Kendall transforms herself into a grey and wispy elderly Anglo-Indian spinster, struggling to teach Shakespeare to high-spirited and uncaring schoolgirls.

Her drab life is suddenly, joyously brightened by friendship with a young couple. The rejuvenation she experiences is brief; but her spirit and the solace she finds in her beloved Bard are strong enough to bring her through the discovery of how callously her young friends have used her. The portrait is minutely observed; and Aparna Sen finds a universal and finally elating quality in this intimate depiction of loneliness and resilience.

Another first work by an Asian woman director, Rachel Zem's *Cream Soda and Milk*, found less ready acceptance with the critics, but is remarkable in the context of Hong Kong cinema. Within the required formula of a story which offers a popular audience fast action and strong sentiment, Miss Zem's narrative of a brother and sister thrown, by a broken home, to opposite ends of the social scale explores little-known areas of Hong Kong life. Largely shot on real locations, in slums, schools and the red-light area, it vigorously exposes the effects of social and racial inequality and economic privation.

From New Zealand, Roger Donaldson's *Smash Palace* also explores a wholly realistic and contemporary human situation: Bruno Lawrence's performance as a divorced husband who kidnaps his own daughter after being refused rights of access deservedly won the prize for best actor.

Eastern European films were strongly in evidence. The festival presented a large-scale retrospective of Hungarian cinema, and the Hungarian film in competition was Pál Gábor's *Wasted Lives*, an exploration (like the same director's *Angi Vera*) of the human effects of the Stalinist era. From Poland, *Vabank*, a spirited absurdist comedy about a bank robbery, earned Juliusz Machulski a special jury prize for an outstanding directorial debut. The Yugoslav Goran Markovic's satirical picture of the politics of school administration, *Jacks of All Trades*, took the prize for best direction. A rather chaotic comedy, *The Beloved Woman of Mechanic Gavrilov*, at least deserved its award for the leading performance of the popular Soviet comedienne Liudmilla Gurchenko.

Special jury prizes were awarded to Peter Weir's *Gallipoli* and to Karel Reisz's *The French Lieutenant's Woman*. Other films by established European directors however proved disappointing: François Truffaut's expert and unimportant *La Femme d'à coté*; R. W. Fassbinder's half-baked updating of the *Blue Angel* story to Adenauer's reconstruction Germany, *Lola*; and a dull ghost story by Dino Rise, *Fantasma d'Amore*.

Including a large information section, the Manila Festival screened in all some 200 films from 40 countries, and was intended, said its organizers, "to orient local movie audiences with the styles and genres of the cinema of other nations and prove that films are indeed the language of all races and nations." It may all have proved a headier experience for the Filipino audience than was ever anticipated. Films shown in the festival bypassed the ordinary rigorous national censorship; and the experience of seeing films as controversial in their several ways as *Lady Chatterley's Lover, Man of Iron, Death Wish II* and *Stalker* undoubtedly left powerful impressions.

As it happened the festival coincided with and even perhaps precipitated a critical confrontation between the Filipino film-makers and the censorship, which is seen as the biggest obstacle to the emergence of a serious national cinema. In recent weeks responsibility for censorship has passed from the military authority to a civil board among whose 40 members society ladies predominate, and which makes the former military censorship seem, by contrast, positively liberal.

The particular focus of mistrust is the chairman of the board, a one-time beauty queen, now in her sixties, Maria Kalaw-Katigbak, whose first efforts have revealed capricious despotism, not to mention a touch of pyromania: she has burnt offending sections of film negatives on the spot to preclude any possibility of future appeal or reconsideration.

Matters came to a head during the festival with the total banning of two new films, *Schoolgirls* (in which the only apparent offence was that young girls were shown to become pregnant), and an action picture, *Boy Condenado*. In this case it is thought that the story bore too close resemblances to the real-life case of a celebrated gangster called Ben Tumbling. Tumbling was an orphan boy who gained his living as a street acrobat (hence his name) and subsequently became a criminal and police informer. He was killed when he finally rebelled and turned against the police. Posthumously he has aquired the status of folk hero, partly from his own Robin Hood exploits, partly as a tragic exemplar of the legacy of the slums. Past projects to film the story of Ben Tumbling have met with total prohibition.

The Manila directors today plan a demonstration at the presidential palace to demand the ousting of the ancient beauty queen from her place on the censorship board.

Nearer home, the Manila Festival prompts reflections on the fairly consistent and culpable neglect of foreign film events by the British diplomatic service. For a start it seemed a trifle inconsiderate that the Embassy did not advise the British delegation that most western diplomatic representatives had received warning of intended terrorist activities. Moreover, while every other foreign embassy gave a reception for the showing of the national entry, the British were nowhere in evidence for the screening of *The French Lieutenant's Woman*. That this was not part of any plan to avoid Marcos-sponsored events was indicated by the prominence given to the opening by the British Ambassador of an exhibition of photographs by David Hamilton, purveyor of soft-core erotica to the gentry. More generous recognition of British films abroad would undoubtedly foster both the morale and the commercial promotion of the home industry.

Shakespeare for schoolgirls: Jennifer Kendall with Debashree Roy in "36 Chowringhee Lane"

Television

A test of ethics

It is more than three years since the in vitro fertilization technique, pioneered by Mr Patrick Steptoe and Dr Bob Edwards, made possible the birth of the first "test tube" baby, Louise Brown. Now similar teams are working in America and Australia and on the Continent. More than 100 babies have been born or are expected by this method and, as it offers hope where none previously existed, demand is expected to increase and multiply. The Test Tube Explosion, TVS's first documentary, produced by Peter Williams and directed by Gordon Stevens, told the story so far last night.

For the first time Steptoe, the doctor, and Edwards, the scientist, allowed cameras into their Bourn Hall Clinic in Cambridge; in America, TVS filmed a complete record of the making of a test tube baby and the first American test tube birth; they also visited the Animal Research Station where experiments are taking place on embryo freezing; and talked to Dr Alan Trounson and his Australian team who are working on the freezing of human eggs and embryos.

So it was a packed programme, excellently produced, which tried not to neglect the ethical considerations. But because of the limitation that time imposes on content, it could not hope to be comprehensive in this area. Doubts already exist. Now that fertility drugs are being used to increase the number of eggs produced in the monthly cycle and increase the prospects of successful conceptions, such doubts have intensified. What does or might happen to the surplus eggs and embryos?

Dr Trounson is freezing them for examination and there appears to be scientific agreement that valuable information can be obtained here. But the question implicit in such work is the one Dr Edwards posed himself: When does life begin?

Dr Michael Thomas, Chairman of the BMA Ethics Committee, who are shortly to consider the whole matter, said that in vitro fertilization involved a moral decision. He would like a moratorium on further work while the public made up its mind. It seems vital that the debate should increase.

BBC1's Play for Today also concerned itself with life: Life After Death, Rachel Billington's second play for television. Here we found Dorothy Tutin, a widow of a few hours, "cut in half" by an unexpected death, unable yet to comprehend the extent of grief or allow its tears.

It was a simple play about living on, almost documentary, but powerfully moving and dependent on meticulous performances. Such a performance was contributed by Dorothy Tutin and she was excellently supported by Caroline Blakiston as the friend, Ben Cross as the son, Judy Loe as one of the daughters and Lucy Hornak as the petulant Polly. Though it tended to make one reflect on one's insurance cover, it did have a splash of humour when mother and daughters select funeral dresses from a middle-aged, somewhat xenophobic sales assistant (Dulcie Gray). Innes Lloyd produced and Anthony Simmons directed.

Arena on BBC2 dealt with the poetry and some of the life of Osip Mandelstam, said to be one of the greatest poets of the century, a Russian Jew who wrote a poem about Stalin that led him first to exile, then — despite a tenacious attempt to write a more acceptable one — to death in a Siberian prison camp. There was some moving film, shot by a Dutch crew in 1973, on his widow, Nadezhda, whose memory preserved the work it was hoped to destroy but the programme — *Here they kill people for it* — lost much of its poignancy through long bouts of declamation in Russian, melodic maybe but not intelligible.

Dennis Hackett

Donald Cooper

Gwen Taylor (left), Anna Wing, Frances de la Tour: superb performances

Theatre

Brutally honest humour

Skirmishes

Hampstead

The world is still full of primary human experience that nobody has bothered to dramatize, and it is quite a thrill when such raw material finds its voice through a writer as good as the Liverpool Playhouse's Catherine Hayes.

Where family relationships are concerned, most of us can be divided between the dutiful ones who stayed to look after the old folks, and the selfish ones who got out. *Skirmishes* examines these alternatives in the form of a siblings' duel over the body of a bedridden mother in the last stages of senile paralysis. And if that suggests the kind of northern play you feel you can do without, I should add that it is also brutally funny, free of punch-drunk family recriminations, and aloof from any sense of revenge writing.

As the contestants first engage, Miss Hayes lets you feel you have them both weighed up. On the left, the childless Jean who has been tending her incontinent parent night and day for years, and has some cause for her snappy manner. On the right, Rita, paying one of her few courtesy calls from her conveniently removed family, now briskly straightening up the room and all too ready to pounce on her exhausted sister for allowing the patient to develop bed-sores. As played by Gwen Taylor, nausea ill-concealed under a bright smile, Rita is the kind of woman who asks "Everything all right?" in such a way that forbids anyone to say no.

However, she gets that answer right between the teeth from Frances de la Tour's Jean, whose delivery varies between flat-toned derision and sulphurous irony as she demolishes Rita's alibis and explains what it means to be responsible for an incontinent old hulk who now barely belongs to the human race.

The dramatic charge derives from the inert figure in the bed: treated by Rita as a person, and by Jean as an inanimate object whose ashes are about to be scattered. The spectator's view swings between these alternatives while the balance of sympathies between the sisters also starts moving.

It now emerges that Jean had another reason beyond filial duty for staying at home; and that Rita had been thrown out of the house when she married. The focus finally comes unambiguously to rest on the old woman (Anna Wing), who reveals what she has been in one speech of hate-filled ingratitude.

Skirmishes covers much ground in its 90 minutes. From its skill in recreating the past between two people who already know it, you instantly feel in the company of a writer you can trust; and each fresh opening-up of the play until it finally reaches the desolate present is similarly sure-footed.

In Tim Fywell's production, three superb performances break the ingrained taboos on family affection and bereavement. It omits the smell of the sick room, but everything else is there.

Irving Wardle

Scrap!

Playhouse, Liverpool

Blackmail, bribery and betrayal are what Bill Morrison's British secret agent calls the three Bs of diplomacy. Belfast, bombs and bullets are three other relevant Bs and the portraits of Bogart and Bacall on the lavatory doors of a sleazy Liverpool club give further indications of the world Mr Morrison is writing about. Like his earlier murderous farce, *Flying Blind*, *Scrap!* is a play which brings together the human stupidities of the war in Northern Ireland for the purposes of malignant comedy.

By the end, he has a full-scale farce on his hands, with a meeting of violent Irish Protestants, Republican Catholics, the Liverpool police, the British agent and assorted bystanders of varying degrees of innocence. They come together in a club with more than enough doors to satisfy Feydeau, only, instead of supplying confusing sexual implications, the opening and closing of doors finds its absurd laughter in the changing positions of power, with guns and bombs to provide the uneasy punch lines.

Laughter is a difficult weapon to aim precisely, and Mr Morrison settles for the greater certainty of rolling in the jokes like hand-grenades. He provides a Liverpool scrap dealer who is dragged into the plot for comical sympathy and to help a Belfast relative. The relative is a brother-in-law engaged in the business of secetarian murder, and his daughter has run to Liverpool with incriminating documents, keeping company with the British agent who has a grandiose private plan to end the strife in Ulster.

All that plotting, with flourishes of murder, a mysterious figure in a Micky Mouse mask, a blundering dyspeptic policeman, seductions, vengeful wives after their alimony and estranged husbands denied access to their children, requires a pace that Chris Bond's production lacks in the first half. It may be that Voytek's revolving set is too elaborate for the necessary speed — it is certainly lit too moodily.

Among the players, Chris Darwin animates the scrap dealer with droll reluctance and a bewildered sexual appeal to the women he meets (when the gun comes out they rush to his defence: "Don't shoot him, he's only small stuff"). Eve Bland storms delightfully in search of her absconding husband the agent.

Ned Chaillet

Concerts

Allegri Quartet

Oxford Music Faculty

Oxford is slow to change but likes to mark its little alterations. So it was that on Monday the Music Faculty gave a concert to celebrate their knight's move across the city, from the domestic warren in Holywell Street to the squat functional building previously occupied by Linacre College. Here the department has room for all its ancient and modern appurtanences, its Bate Collection of instruments and its electronic studio. What it does not have is a concert hall, but since the university has kept its lease on the Holywell Music Room none other is needed, and the faculty has been compensated for its move away from that venerable auditorium by the award of a rehearsal studio created within the new building. That was where this opening recital took place.

It was given by an ensemble with long-standing Oxford connexions, the Allegri Quartet, who are also feeling their way into a new situation with the two violins on outside positions. The programme, too, was thoroughly Oxonian, starting with the recent fourth quartet of Edmund Rubbra, for many years a member of the faculty, and ending with a work by one of the university's most celebrated honorary doctors, Haydn, the F minor Quartet from his Opus 55. This was marvellously performed, its wild comedies perfectly timed and the fast movements taken as dialogues of musing and sometimes truculent pedants.

The middle Oxford work was commissioned from one of the latest graduates to make a name for himself as a composer, Nigel Osborne, who set two poems by Craig Raine in his *Cantata piccola* for soprano and quartet. It was a bold choice of text, for Raine's poetry is not in any obvious way song-like and indeed almost defies music as much by its rush of images as by such words as "asterisks". However Osborne's two homogenous movements, one misty and the other frenetic, each took hold of the words and even added cogency to their continuous presence, especially with singing by Mary King so illuminated from within.

Paul Griffiths

SNO/Gibson

Festival Hall

Sir Alexander Gibson and his Scottish National Orchestra chose a Mahler programme again on Monday for their visit to the South Bank. They brought us an interesting young singer from West Germany, Doris Soffel, and a major undertaking for any orchestra or conductor, Mahler's ninth symphony, a work of extreme emotional range and structural subtlety.

Mahler's music comes naturally, I guess, to Sir Alex, though it still has to be learnt carefully, and the execution as well as interpretation planned like an intricate military stratagem. I admired especially his concern for Mahler's contrapuntal melodic textures, everything as clear as possible, the orchestral balance focused upon those lines rather than on sumptuous harmony or enhancement of tension, which will make themselves felt if the rest is correctly judged.

The first movement's climaxes were banked, the SNO woodwind quite raw in timbre, their strings firm and muscular with a minimum of sensuous glow (even in the last Adagio), though one did not miss that, because the melodic line was true and taut. The funeral procession was weighty enough, the drums thundering momentously, the brass kept on a firm rein.

Wit and radiant vitality informed the whimsical second movement, so that the nightmare of the succeeding Rondo-burlesque would strike with maximum instancy, its closing pages properly dynamic. The battle against inexorable annihilation is not quite won when the finale begins, and Gibson left room for further resistance during its course.

The serene, rarified ether of the coda was conveyed with a poetic candour that I do not remember appreciating so fully; even Horenstein did not venture so far beyond the romantic inheritance of ear-wooing euphony. Now and then, perfection of ensemble was in question, but the SNO was in its finest fettle, and the whole reading was as perceptive and poetic as anything I have heard Sir Alex conduct in these 30 or so years.

Mahler's *Songs of a Travelling Lad* suppose a male singer. Miss Soffel sensibly wore a fetching imitation of male evening dress. Her voice is rich, still growing, sometimes clumsy, but beautiful and capable of magical effects, as she showed at the end of the second song, and elsewhere.

William Mann

Israel Piano Quartet

St John's/Radio 3

The Israel Piano Quartet divided their lunch-hour recital at St John's on Monday between Beethoven's Op 16 and Fauré's Op 15, both comparatively early works in the lives of composers whose list of opus numbers extended well past 100.

Beethoven was only in his mid-twenties when conjuring his E flat major Quartet for piano and strings from an earlier quintet for piano and wind. The Israeli team (Pnina Salzman, Moshe Murvitz, Abraham Bornstein and Elhanan Bregman) seemed acutely conscious of the fact that it had been conceived for instruments of limited expressive range by someone still feeling his way. Their playing was orderly and well balanced, with not the slightest suggestion of excessive keyboard dominance — as is so often the case in early Beethoven. But the reading was curiously lacking in rhythmic vitality as well as in potency of expression. Delivered with such self-effacing, classical correctness, the work could have been attributed to any also-ran at Bonn's Electoral court.

By the time Fauré had recast the finale of his first piano quartet in C minor he was already pushing 40. Inevitably it is an infinitely riper excursion than Beethoven's despite its earlier opus number, and the music's ardour helped the players to thaw. Even so all four movements were still undercharacterized. Though mellow enough the strings lacked the requisite tonal body and bloom for the more luxuriant climaxes, and, fearing to dominate, the pianist again too often played for safety. Even *dolcissimo* and *espressivo* confidences in the *pianissimo* range needed a more intimate glow. The root cause of the disappointment was nevertheless the anonymity of the phrasing.

Joan Chissell

Latin music

Machito

The Venue

If the utterly spurious salsa boom has achieved nothing else, at least it brought Machito to London for a performance on Monday night which presented the untainted essence, the pure and bright flame, of Latin music.

Born Frank Grillo in Florida almost 70 years ago and raised in Cuba, Machito formed his first orchestra in New York in 1939; there were collaborations with modern jazz musicians (notably Charlie Parker) during the early years, but mostly he has honed his art without feeling the need to blend in passing trends. Those who crowded the Venue floor will attest that his music is just about the best ever devised for dancing.

A rhythm section containing names like Ramos, Marrero, Gonzalez and Rodriguez promises an authentic Latin swing, and so it proved. Bossed by Machito's son, the timbalero Mario Grillo, they set up flowing jigsaw patterns which never flagged. Willie Rodriguez's trip-hammer piano figures were constantly impressive, particularly in the dizzyingly syncopated introduction to one trenchant solo.

Four saxophonists delivered the melodies and riffs with full-toned aplomb, anchored by Pete Miranda's massively mobile baritone, but the orchestra's true glory is its quartet of trumpeters, whose screaming high-note sequences sizzled like fat on a stove. Out of the section stepped Alfredo Armenteros for several majestic solos mixing bravura technique with melting lyricism.

The leader contented himself with waving a pair of maraccas and singing duets with his daughter, Paula Grillo, who also distinguished herself by delivering a lush, regal ballad above billowing horns and impatiently ticking hand-drums. It was a rare moment of calm in a volcanic evening.

Richard Williams

Dance

Rambert Academy

Twickenham

Five choreographers staged works for an evening of dance presented by the Rambert Academy on Monday in their studio at the West London Institute, Twickenham. The most substantial piece was by Christopher Bruce, whose *Dancing Day*, performed by academy students at Sadler's Wells last year, first demonstrated publicly the high professional standards achieved by the academy in the short period since its foundation.

Bruce's latest ballet is called *Village Songs*. He began it at the Rambert Academy, then presented it in Holland with the Netherlands Dance Theatre two months ago before returning to complete the academy's production. The music is Bartók's *Village Scenes*, three of which were given on Monday. A solo, danced with gentle confidence by Leslie Owen, separates two ensembles in which the all-female cast perform with lilting unison the simple, folk-style steps and complex rhythms.

Rumba, an ensemble dance full of fast runs and swirling entries in Robert North's characteristic manner, to guitar music by Paco de Lucia, showed that the young cast, men as well as women, have no difficulty in putting on a touch of flamboyant display when needed, and Clover Roope's *Un solo para tres* revealed remarkable control and accurate placing of its incisive gestures from a trio of young women only in their second term.

Even more impressive, in a way, was the sight of how well the young dancers could present the work of less experienced choreographers. *Lush Life* was actually created by one of the students, Claire Eastman, to jazz music by Bobby Timmins, and showed its cast of three women and two men as very cool cats. Michael Ho's Schubert *Fantasie* brought out a more lyrical, sometimes classical mood from its four couples. The future of Twickenham looks bright.

John Percival

Stock Exchange Prices

Equities recover

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 25. Dealings End Feb 12. § Contango Day, Feb 15. Settlement Day, Feb 22

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS

MEDIUMS

LONGS

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

DOLLAR STOCKS

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A — B

C — E

F — H

I — L

M — N

1981/82 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
350	250	ML Hldgs	310	..	10.0	3.3	9.9
50½	27	MY Dart	29	..	2.6	9.1	5.0
150	93	McCorquodale	133	..	11.4	8.6	5.8
78	70	Macfarlane	70	..	5.3	7.6	8.4
39	18	McInerney Prop	27	..	2.2	8.2	6.3
53	25	Mackay H.	46	..	5.2	11.2	16.8
127	85	McKechnie Bros	109	-2	10.4	9.5	8.8
82	56	Macpherson D.	80	+1	6.0	7.5	30.2
174	108	Magnet & S'thns	150	• -4	7.1	4.8	10.7
217	97	Man Agcy Music	113	-1	13.5	11.1	9.6
203	100	Man Ship Canal	105	..	..e	..	..
35	21	Mang Bronze	30	-1	3.1	10.3	..
154	73	Marchwiel	134	-3	8.6	6.4	..
145	106	Marks & Spencer	140	-3	5.8	4.1	19.1
51	33½	Marley Ltd	45½	-1	3.2	7.1	14.8
37	14½	Marling Ind	35	-1	1.4	4.0	24.5
42	22	Marshall T Lox	42	..	4.0	9.5	3.8
40	21	Do A	40	..	4.0	9.9	3.6
280	178	Martin News	278	-2	13.9	5.0	6.0
270	209	Martonair	228	-3	10.9	4.8	13.3
74	48	Medminster	64	..	5.3	8.3	6.9
250	140	Menzies J.	231	-2	5.6	2.4	11.5
224	128	Metal Box	182	-6	16.5	9.1	16.0
52¾	37¼	Metalrax	40	-1	3.1	7.8	6.5
25	12	Mettoy	14	..	0.1	1.0	..

O — S

1981/82 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
544	374	Standard Tel	465	..	15.0	3.2	15.2
81	45	Stanley A. G.	61	-1	3.6	5.9	9.9
241	128	Steel Bros	211	+2	11.4	4.7	9.3
222	154	Steetley Co	186	..	15.0	8.1	9.0
28½	12½	Steinberg	27½	-½	..	..	..
118	92	Stonehill	97	-1	12.1	12.5	33.3
28	9	Stone Platt	13½	..	..	..	..
33	16	Streeters	27	-1	..	..	9.2
66	46	Strong & Fisher	56	-2	7.1	12.8	..
110	79	Sunlight Serv	105	-1	3.6	3.5	8.6
52	37	Sutcliffe S'man	42	..	..e	..	..
188	92½	Swire Pacific 'A'	104½	-½	..	..	..
195	140	Sylighe	195	..	12.9	6.6	21.6

T — Z

1981/82 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
25	15	TACE	20	..	..e	..	6.0
127	85	TSL Therm Synd	93	..	10.0	10.8	5.1
35¹³⁄₁₆	10¹³⁄₁₆	Takeda BDR	£24³⁄₁₆	-⅛	17.6	0.7	26.4
6½	3½	Talbex Grp	4⅛	-⅛	..	..	..
436	316	Tarmac Ltd	434	..	23.3	5.4	7.5
220	126	Tate & Lyle	218	..	16.4	7.5	5.9
607	441	Taylor Woodrow	580	-5	19.0	3.3	10.3

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

SHIPPING

MINES

OIL

PROPERTY

RUBBER

TEA

MISCELLANEOUS

RECENT ISSUES

RIGHTS ISSUES

Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) February 2	Market rates (close) February 2	1 month	3 months
New York	$1.8500-1.8710	$1.8630-1.8640	0.15-0.25c disc	0.60-0.70c disc
Montreal	$2.2360-2.2520	$2.2460-2.2470	0.10-0.20c disc	0.60-0.75c disc
Amsterdam	4.79-4.82fl	4.79½-4.80½fl	1⅝-1⅛c prem	4⅞-4⅛c prem
Brussels	74.35-74.80f	74.40-74.50f	18-38c disc	88-108c disc
Copenhagen	14.28-14.38k	14.28-14.30k	par-90c disc	275-410c disc
Dublin	1.2420-1.2500p	1.2420-1.2435p	25-40p disc	105-135p disc
Frankfurt	4.36-4.39½m	4.37¾-4.38¾m	1⅝-1⅛pf prem	4½-4pf prem
Lisbon	125.80-127.60e	127.25-137.55e	45-165c disc	150-420c disc
Madrid	184.60-186.00p	185.10-185.30p	2-20c disc	60-85c disc
Milan	2338-2345lr	2337-2339lr	14¼-17¼lr disc	48-51lr disc
Oslo	11.04-11.10k	11.05-11.06k	100-80ore prem	255-150ore prem
Paris	11.10½-11.16½f	11.11-11.12f	⅞-1⅝c disc	3⅞-4⅞c disc
Stockholm	10.64-10.69k	10.65½-10.66½k	75-10ore prem	400-340ore prem
Tokyo	430-437y	434-435y	3.10-2.65y prem	9.10-8.70y prem
Vienna	30.60-30.85sch	30.70-30.75sch	14-10gro prem	35-25gro prem
Zurich	3.48½-3.53½f	3.50½-3.51½f	1⅞-1⅝c prem	5-4½c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to 1975: was up 0.1 at 91.9.

Money Market Rates

Clearing Banks Base Rate 14%

Discount Mkt Loans%
Overnight: High 14⅛ Low 13

Week Fixed: 14

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	13⅞	2 months	13¹³⁄₁₆
3 months	13¾	3 months	13½

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) Trades (Dis%)

1 month	13¹⁵⁄₁₆-13¹³⁄₁₆	1 month	14⅞
2 months	13²⁹⁄₃₂-13⅞	2 months	14⅝
3 months	13²⁷⁄₃₂-13²³⁄₃₂	3 months	14½
6 months	13⅝-13⅜	6 months	14⅛

Local Authority Bonds

1 month	15¼-15	7 months	14¼-14
2 months	15⅛-14⅞	8 months	14¼-14
3 months	15⅛-14⅞	9 months	15-14¾
4 months	14⅞-14⅝	10 months	15-14¾
5 months	14⅝-14⅜	11 months	15-14¾
6 months	14¼-14	12 months	14⅝-14½

Secondary Mkt. ECD Rates (%)

1 month	14⁹⁄₁₆-14⁷⁄₁₆	6 months	14½-14⅜
3 months	14½-14⅜	12 months	14½-14⅜

Local Authority Market (%)

2 days	14½	3 months	14⁹⁄₁₆
7 days	14½	6 months	14⁵⁄₁₆
1 month	14⅝	1 year	14⁵⁄₁₆

Interbank Market (%)

Overnight: Open 14½-14⅝ Close 13¾

1 week	14½-14⅜	6 months	14⅝-14½
1 month	14⅝-14½	9 months	14⅝-14½
3 months	14⅝-14½	12 months	14⅝-14½

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)
3 months 15 6 months 15

Finance House Base Rate 15½%

Other Markets

Australia	1.6850-1.7000
Bahrein	0.6960-0.6990
Finland	8.3155-8.3555
Greece	111.60-113.60
Hongkong	10.8825-10.9225
Iran	n.a.
Kuwait	0.5245-0.5275
Malaysia	4.2410-4.2710
Mexico	48.55-50.05
New Zealand	2.3050-2.3250
Saudi Arabia	6.3150-6.3450
Singapore	3.8710-3.9010
South Africa	1.8125-1.8275

Dollar Spot Rates

* Ireland	1.4950-1.4970
+ Canada	1.2051-1.2053
Netherlands	2.5680-2.5710
Belgium	39.93-39.96
Denmark	7.6700-7.6800
West Germany	2.3495-2.3505
Portugal	67.60-67.80
Spain	99.35-99.45
Italy	1256.50-1257.50
Norway	5.9300-5.9350
France	5.9550-5.9580
Sweden	5.7150-5.7200
Japan	232.70-232.85
Austria	16.45-16.47
Switzerland	1.8790-1.8810

* Ireland quoted in US currency.
+ Canada $1 : US $0.8297-0.8299

Euro-$ Deposits

(%) calls, 13½-14½; seven days, 15⁵⁄₁₆-15³⁄₁₆; one month, 15⁷⁄₁₆-15⁵⁄₁₆; three months, 15⁹⁄₁₆-15⁷⁄₁₆; six months, 15⅝-15⅛.

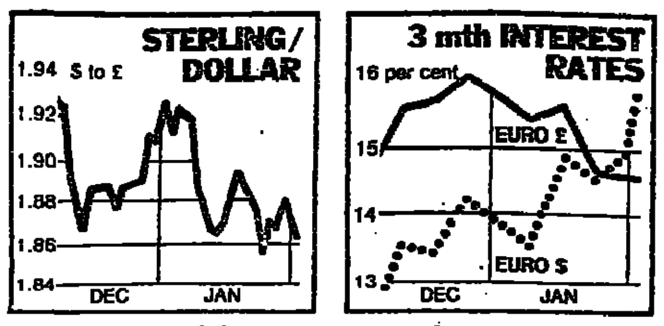
Gold

Gold fixed: am, $375 (an ounce); pm, $379.15 close, $380.50.
Krugerrand (per coin): $390-392 (£208.80-209.80).
Sovereigns (new): $92.5-93.5 (£49.5-50.0).

هذا من الأصل

BUSINESS NEWS

How US rates moved



Three-month dollar interest rates have moved a clear point above equivalent sterling rates. British rates might well have risen in line with dollar rates but for Bank of England action to keep them down. Despite the differential in favour of New York, the pound has held up reasonably well against the dollar and has been particularly firm against other European currencies.

Reserves rise by $62m

The United Kingdom's gold and foreign currency reserves fell by $122m in January to $23,225m (£12,333m). However, after allowing for official transactions, there was an underlying increase of $62m. Net public sector borrowing under the exchange cover scheme boosted the figures by $94m, but against this there was a $77m repayment on the IMF oil facility and a $201m decrease on revaluation of the gold content of Britain's European Currency Units.

No bar to BNOC sales

Foreigners and overseas companies will be allowed to buy shares in the exploration and production arm of the British National Oil Corporation when it is privatized, Mr Nigel Lawson, Energy Secretary, confirmed yesterday. The articles of association of the newly privatized corporation will prevent any foreigner taking control however, he insisted.

Mr Lawson refused to confirm reports that the board of BNOC had voted unanimously against the Government's plans to split the corporation into two arms.

Big fall in BL sales

BL has started the year with a big fall in its monthly sales. Preliminary figures circulating in the motor industry showed that the state-owned company took only about 14.3 per cent of all sales against 21.2 per cent in the previous month. Imports were nudging 60 per cent in a market expected to be about 125,000 or 10 per cent down on January last year.

Meanwhile, the Japanese kept their market share down to only about 9.3 per cent wih Volkswagen Audi moving ahead of Datsun as the top importer. Ford's share of 31.5 per cent gave the company a clear market lead.

● The Department of Industry has set up a study group with members from the government, industry and the universities to chart the future for information technology products in Britain.

Oil plan setback

Two American oil companies, Standard Oil of California and Amoco, have decided to drop out of one of the world's largest planned synthetic oil projects, the Alsands tar sands recovery plant in Alberta, Canada. Chevron blamed the decision on falling oil prices, inflation and harsher Canadian oil taxes. The Alsands consortium led by Shell has still not decided whether to press ahead with the project, designed to mine and produce 137,000 barrels a day of synthetic oil by 1988.

● Rolls-Royce is to cut 180 jobs at its Mountsorrel plant in Leicestershire which manufactures parts for Rolls-Royce aero-engines.

● Broke Bond has sold its food manufacturing business in Europe for £9m. It is the latest British food group to find business there too tough to be profitable. page 14

MARKET SUMMARY

Bears beat the blues

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 571.0 down 1.0
FT Gilts 64.60 down 0.05
FT All Share 325.87 down 1.96
Bargains 22,342

The London stock market staged a strong rally yesterday after suffering an early setback following overnight news of dearer interest rates in the United States.

Gilts recovered losses of up to £¾ in longs and £½ in shorts to close unchanged, helped by the easier trend in the money market and the United States bond market.

Equities also bounced back after jobbers had marked prices sharply lower in the wake of the ½ per cent increase in United States prime rates to 16½ per cent and the pessimistic views on the British economy by Mr Francis Pym, leader of the House of Commons. The FT Index, having opened 11.8 down at 10 am, closed only 1.0 down at 571.0 helped by further bear buying and the latest report on industrial trends by the Confederation of British Industry.

Shares of **Metal Box** fell 6p to 182p amid rumours of an imminent rights issue of £35m. But **Fisons** advanced a further 2p to 278p following the sale of its loss-making fertilizer division to **Norsk Hydro**.

According to several market pundits, this now leaves the way open to a bid from several overseas interests, including the two big German groups **Hoechst** and **Bayer**. The shares have now risen 40p this week and a bid would value them at £103m.

The Stock Exchange has exonerated **John Brown** of any impropriety following a recent share placing of 5m shares ahead of a forecast loss in the machine tool division. The shares rose 1p to 63p.

One group to have benefited from the recent train drivers' dispute is **Bentalls**, the departmental stores group, where the shares eased 1p to 37p. Word has filtered through that shoppers faced with the disruption to services have been buying locally throughout the January sales. In addition, the group last week opened a shopping complex in Tonbridge comprising of 60,000 sq ft, which it shares with **J Sainsbury**, and which is expected to make a significant contribution to profits.

There was a big buyer of **Electrocomponents** and the price recovered from an early level of 155p to end the day 2p up at 160p. **Normand Electrical** was suspended at 41p awaiting details of a possible bid approach. **Throgmorton St. Nominees** hold around 10.95 per cent of the equity with **ICFC** a further 7.10 per cent.

The **Kuwait Investment Office** has sold its entire stake of 4.5m shares, or 7.79 per cent of the shares, in **Alexander Howden**, the insurance broker. News of the disposal left the price 4p higher at 152p.

Profits of **IDC** rose by 17.3 per cent to £1.22m last year with shareholders receiving a final dividend of 6.05p gross making 7.97p for the year against 7.23p. Despite no further signs of an upturn in the building session so far this year,Mr Howard Hicks, chairman, reckons prospects are reasonable and unlikely to fall below last year's level. The price rose 13p to a new high of 105p.

Equity turnover on February 1, was £139.655m (18,662 bargains).

Michael Clark

COMMODITIES

● Several International Coffee Organization (ICO) producers and consumers have formally submitted proposals for changes in any future international coffee agreement beyond September 30 next year, according to ICO delegates.

The proposals include suggestions for selective indicator prices for different types of coffee, an updated basis for distribution of quotas, improved shortfall provisions, a new formula for establishing trigger prices and some form of stockholding provision.

The current agreement has said. entire quotas or declare shortfalls in a timely fashion.

Several producers and consumers propose updating the reference years on which quota distribution negotiations are based and which they consider give a disproportionate share to Brazil, ICO delegates said.

MONEY MARKETS

Domestic rates:
Base rates 14%
3-month interbank 14⅝-14½
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 15⅝⁹⁄₁₆-15¹³⁄₁₆
3 month DM 10⅜-10½
3 month Fr. F. 16-15¾

● Interest rates held steady, helped by the Bank holding its intervention rates at Monday's levels. Help totalled £178m on a shortge of £200m.

OTHER EXCHANGES

Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,390.15 down 25.87.
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,828.00 down 81.79.

CURRENCIES

● The dollar was again in demand on the back of higher US interest rates, touching a day's "high" of DM2.3680. Sterling closed steady.

LONDON CLOSE
STERLING
$1.8635 up 20 points
Index 91.9 up 0.1
DM 4.3825
FrF 11.1150
Yen 434.50
DOLLAR
Index 111.1 up 0.2
DM 2.3500 up 52 pts
GOLD
$380.50 up $1.50

TODAY

Advance energy statistics (December).
Energy select committee.
National Economic Development Council monthly meeting.
Association of British Chambers of Commerce luncheon.
Commons discusses Lloyd's Bill.

Europe banks battle to peg interest rates

By David Blake, Economics Editor

Europe's central banks stepped into the markets yesterday to head off fears of a rise in interest rates. Instead, they made it clear that they are ready to accept pressure on their currencies against the dollar in an effort to keep their economies moving.

The dollar gained ground sharply in early trading in response to last night's increase in interest rates in New York, an increase which was reinforced by the decision of other leading New York banks to put up their interest rates.

Chemical bank of New York put up its prime rate from 15¾ to 16½ and Chase *Manhattan* went up to 16¼ per cent.

In early trading, the dollar's rate against the mark, now the key figure for European currencies, went up sharply to a high of DM2.3680, more than 2pfennigs above last night's close.

But profit taking and a false report of an assasination attempt on President Reagan led to a recovery of the European currencies later in the day to close at DM2.35 to the dollar, little change on Monday's close.

The bounce back came in spite of a firm statement by the German Bundesbank that it did not intend to raise interest rates, with its Lombard rate at which banks can borrow being kept at 10 per cent. In the United Kingdom, the Bank of England gave help to the markets to stop British interest rates rising.

As a result, what had threatened to become a rout on the stock exchange ended up with little change. The FT index, at one stage 11.8 points down, recovered to close only 1 point down at 571.

Government stocks ended unchanged as interest rates remained stable. Sterling even managed to gain ground, closing at $1.8635, up 20 points, with its effective exchange rate up 0.1 to 91.9

But the calm in Europe's markets after the initial flurry did not conceal the increasing concern being felt about the impact which American interest rates will have. European countries want to bring interest rates down and had started to do so 10 days ago. Now their only hope is to prevent them going up by too much.

It is hoped that any increase in the dollar's value against the European currencies in the next few months will have a limited impact on inflation. Oil prices are showing signs of falling and might fall further *if the dollar rises.*

But European finance ministries recognise that it will not be possible to give their economies extra stimulus through falling interest rates if money in United States becomes tighter and interest rates there rise.

Official inquiry on US steel dumping

Washington, Feb 2. — The United States Government says there is enough merit in most of the complaints of unfair trade filed by American steelmakers against 11 foreign steel producers to warrant a formal investigation.

The complaints charge that a variety of foreign steel *products have been either* illegally subsidized by government aid to industry or dumped on the United States market at prices below the cost of production, violating international trade agreements.

The Commerce Department said last night that 109 of 132 petitions filed by seven United States steel companies on January 11 will be investigated.

Seven cases were dismissed because the supporting evidence was not sufficient and 16 cases were withdrawn by the companies, the department said.

According to the complaints, the products were made in Britain, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, West Germany, South Africa, Brazil, Spain and Romania.

The petitions will now be sent to the International Trade Commission, which has until February 25 to determine on a preliminary basis is United States steelmakers have suffered economic injury because of the imports

Large penalty duties can be imposed on steel imports if dumping or subsidies have caused injury to American producers.

The Commerce Department must decide on the subsidy cases no later than June 10. A dumping ruling is due by August 9.

The steel dispute is expected to be high on the agenda of meetings between European Economic Community and United States trade officials next week in Washington.

The talks are aimed at preventing disputes over both steel and farm exports from leading to protectionist measures on both sides of the Atlantic.

EEC officials have bitterly rejected the allegations by the United States steelmakers and complain that the dispute is disrupting efforts to restucture their steel industry. — Reuter.

Management 'obstacle' to robots in industry

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

Managements' ignorance and fear, rather than union resistance, is the chief obstacle to the introduction of robots in British industry, according to an international study by Inbucon Management Consultants.

In nine detailed studies of British companies which have recently introduced robots, the Inbucon report says that workers' initial suspicions could be overcome by "judicious and sympathetic consultation." Mr Stephen Dale, director of Inbucon's advanced technology group, knew of no British company whose unions had prevented the introduction of robots, though, he admitted, one or two companies had "mucked up their industrial *relations*" in the process.

Mr Terry Duffy, *president* of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, was quite enthusiastic about robotics in a section he contributed to the Incubon report. "A sensible approach will allow us to move into an era in which we attain levels of prosperity and peace unprecedented in human history," he wrote.

Japan has between half and three-quarters of the world's population of about 20,000 industrial robots.

British industry, which is quite a fertile territory for robots, has a present robot pipulation of about 600, the sixth largest in the world, after Japan, the United States, West Germany, Sweden and Italy.

Numbers have doubled in the past three years and are increasing

The present genreation of relatively immobile and insensitive robots could perform only about 2 per cent of the world's total manufacturing activity. But a new generation of mobile, intelligent robots — moving around the factory on wheels or legs, and responding to what they "see" around them — is already more than a gleam in the Japanese researchers' eyes.

Laker chief confident for future

High flying Freddie

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Sir Freddie Laker appears to have taken his bankers by surprise by announcing yesterday that his airline's financial troubles are over.

"Altogether I've raised £60m and for the first time in weeks you can say that I am bouyant and talking to the press. I am flying high today and couldn't be more confident about the future," Sir Freddie said before boarding a *British Airways Concorde* at Heathrow to fly to New York.

Although the complex talks to put together a rescue package to save Laker Airways are understood to have been progressing satisfactorily, if slowly, Sir Freddie's optimistic statements are understood to be premature.

The rescue package for Laker has yet to be signed *although* there is *growing* a feeling among bankers that a deal can still be reached subject to various conditions.

To help solve Laker's cash crisis, American aircraft engine manufacturer McDonnell Douglas is understood to have conditionally ageed to inject up to £5m cash and is also understood to be conditionally prepared to convert loans in the region of $50m to $60 (£26m to £32) into some form of convertible preference shares.

Happy days are back again for Sir Freddie

Clydesdale Bank, which has been supporting Laker since September with a rising overdraft facility thought to be £7m to £10m is not expected to increase this further.

Sir Freddie said yesterday: "The total package, including bank guarantees, borrowing facilities and the restructuring programme, means an investment of £60m and it is the second biggest investment in aviation in this country — second only to British Airways."

However it seems clear that Laker will be receiving little in the form of new money except for the cash injection from McDonnell Douglas and the main part of the rescue takes the form of the conversion of loans into capital.

Intensive talks have been going on for several months among Laker's bankers to try and save the airline.

As part of the recue package Laker is expected to be forced to sell off its three A-300 airbuses which were bought with the help of a $131m syndicated loan arranged through Midland Bank.

Coal subsidy to continue

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

The Government yesterday formally conceded that it has abandoned all hope of eliminating subsidies to the loss-making coal industry before the next election, in the wake of last year's climb down over pit closures and the collapse of the market for coal.

Mr John Moore, Minister responsible for coal at the Energy Department, outlined the terms of the new Coal Industry *Bill*, which opens the way for the Government to spend up to £941m on direct subsidies for the National Coal Board's losses over the next two financial years.

The Government's original plan, laid down in its first coal bill just 22 months ago, was to phase out all operating and deficit grants to the Coal Board by 1983-84.

Mr Moore said that subsidies this financial year would amount to more than £4 for every ton of coal produced. Total Government support for the industry would be £550m, which includes about £90m in the so-called social grants, covering redundancy and pension payments. As the Minister's own gloomy analysis of the coal industry's problems made clear, it is seen as inevitable by Government that several hundred million *pounds of subsidy will be* needed up to 1984.

Mr Moore said that the assumptions on which the massive investmernt programme begun in 1974 in the coal industry was based, had proved to be optimistic. Demand for coal, far from growing to 135 million tons by 1985 had actually fallen to 117 million tons last year. Productivity, despite recent improvements. was still below its 1972/3 level in 1980/1

The new Coal Industry Bill increases the borrowing powers of the Coal Board from its present level of £4,200m to a £4,500m, with a possible further extension to £5,000m. It allows for deficit and operating grants to be increased from the present £590m to a possible £1,750m.

Although Mr Moore did not say explicitly, the cost of last year's decision not to press ahead with the closure of uneconomic pits in the face of mineworkers' opposition is estimated at over £200m this year.

Mr Moore conceded that the Government's £50m scheme to encourage industry to switch from oil-fired to coal-fired boilers had not been a great success. So far, applications had been received for only £17m.


Crown's Peter Burns and Gordon Fearnley: ready for a brush with Dulux

Dulux takes pot shot at Crown

Dulux, Britain's leading paint maker, is enlisting the aid of that most colourful of televised ball games, snooker, to ward *off* Crown, its nearest rival in the £300 million paints market.

In a television advertisement being screened for the first time this week, Dulux is using a snooker table to emphasize the durability — and colour — of its paints range.

This departure from its usual style of advertising *indicates the more aggressive* marketing stance ICI Paints is now taking to hold its position as market leader.

The move follows the success last year of Crown, part of Reed International, which increased its volume of sales last year by 25 per cent. It now claims to have increased its share of the market by three points to 17 per cent as Dulux's share fell to 25 per cent.

Much of Crown's success was due to the launch of Matchpots, the little sample size pots of emulsion available for colour testing.

They have helped Crown achieve brand leadership in the silk emulsion sector

LME acts to calm fears on tin prices

By Michael Prest

London Metal Exchange officials have moved to calm the tin market ahead of the dates on which speculators who went short almost three months ago are due to meet their obligations. Recently there has been some anxiety that tin price movements over the last couple of months could leave speculators with debts they cannot pay.

The main measure taken by the LME committee is to set a maximum backwardation of £120 a day. A backwardation occurs when the cash price of a commodity is higher than forward prices. The latter are normally higher because they include storage, financing, insurance and other costs.

Mr Philip Smith, chairman of the LME board, stressed that the limit, which he described as an "understanding", did not mean that the difference on any day between a cash and a forward price could not be more than £120.

Instead, a seller who is unable to fulfil his commitments by covering his position in the market — entering into a buy contract which effectively cancels his sell contract — can default for a day by paying £120 premium to the party to whom he agreed to sell the tin.

This measure, which Mr Smith said was unprecedented in the LME's history, arose from discussions which the LME committee has held in recent weeks with LME members. Those talks revealed that all members would be able to meet commitments on such terms. The committee is satisfied that no member is too exposed.

But the immediate reason for the move is that at least two shiploads of tin have been delayed. The physical tin is needed by those speculators whose three-month forward sell contracts fall due on February 25 and 26.

The backwardation limit comes into force today. The fears of financial distress and disturbances on the tin market date from the end of November. Heavy buyers of tin, believed to be backed by producers, particularly Malaysia, then switched from buying forward tin to cash tin. This created the backwardation, so that last night cash tin in London was £8,605 a tonne while the three-month metal was £7,972.

Speculators, who market traders believe to be mainly foreign, did not think this backwardation could be held, so they went short.

Exchange clears J. Brown

By Our Financial Staff

International engineering contractor John Brown has been cleared by a Stock Exchange investigation of any irregularity surrounding share dealings immediately before making a forecast of losses in its machine tool division.

The Stock Exchange's Quotations Committee also cleared the company of publishing misleading information on its prospects in the circular before last September's £24m rights issue.

After discussing the problems during 1981 in the machine tool division with Mr John Mayhew-Sanders, chairman, and the group's financial advisers, the committee concluded that the rights issue document did not fail to disclose information material to the company's prospects.

A suspension of listing before the announcement of likely losses would have been inappropriate, the committee concluded, and it said it was satisfied that all dealings in the shares between Novemb*er 19 and December 2, 1981,* were carried out in good faith and without any knowledge of the loss forecast.

News of the Committee's decision was greeted with relief in the market where John Brown shares rose 1p to 63p.

Ladbroke weighs up a wide-open field in Downing St stakes

By Ross Davies


Mrs Thatcher: Could she lose Finchley next time?

Sporting types, bracing themselves for what the smart money says is dearer drinks, smokes and motoring in the Budget on March 9, are already trying to claw back some of their cash from the politicians.

As of yesterday, some are already having a flutter in sterling on dollar price movements in politically-sensitive gold on the Ladbroke Index.

The Ladbroke, formerly the Coral Index, is offering a market in the movement of the London gold price. This is in addition to the existing books on the *FT*, Dow Jones and Hang Seng indices, as well as one-offs like numbers of goals scored in the 52 World Cup soccer games.

"We didn't think there was room for another market in gold, but our clients kept ringing up and saying 'Please make us a market in gold' ", Mr Chris Hales, managing director of the Ladbroke Index, said.

This, however, is only the *tip of* the iceberg as punters — and the rest of us — drift towards 1984. The General Election must be held by May of that year.

Mr Ron Pollard, the Ladbroke director responsible for "special event" betting, says: "One of the most fascinating bets I'm working on at the moment — it's the most difficult I've ever worked on — is: Who will be Prime Minister six weeks after the next election."

Mr Pollard, 40 years in the trade and half of them with oddball betting, foresees the possibility that the Tories, Labour and SDP/Liberal Alliance could each get around 200 of the 630 seats.

He is taking into account Alliance statements that they will not work with either Mrs Thatcher or Mr Foot, leaving the field open to perhaps a dozen runners, among them Mr Prior, Mr Shore and Mrs Williams.

Mrs Thatcher, Mr Pollard says, is by no means sure even of candidacy. He remains to be convinced that the Prime Minister will hold her Finchley seat next time round.

While Mr Pollard is still doing his sums before making that particular book, odds on the party winning the biggest number of seats are already available at Ladbroke betting shops. Strangely enough, when unemployment has just broken the 3 million barrier, *the odds have improved* in favour of Mrs Thatcher's party.

A curious flurry of bets backing the Conservatives at the time the unemployment figures were announced last week has sent the odds on the Tories to 6 to 4 from 7 to 4. Labour remains 9 to 4 and SDP/Liberal Alliance 11 to 8.


Mrs Williams: One of a big field for Number Ten?

BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

LESNEY PRODUCTS

Matchbox hopes to strike it rich

This is the time of year the £300m-sales toy industry looks not so much to signed new season orders but listens to the trade vibrations at key shopwindows like this week's toy and hobby fair at Earls Court, London (Derek Harris, writes).

So far, although nobody expects more than a tough trading year, the vibrations are moderately encouraging.

At least for the first time in two years the London fair, which ends today, has not been dominated by talk of the demise of manufacturers, like Dunbee Combex Marx in 1980 and Airfix last year.

Statistics are lacking but the verdict on last Christmas is that it was an improvement on the disaster of 1980 although some stock was left in the retail pipeline. Nevertheless there are already improved orders for items selling through the year.

The question mark over Lesney Products, the Matchbox range company which has the largest manufacturing base in Britain of any in the industry, has mainly been over their 1981 losses and high borrowings.

At mid-term to last July the Lesney pre-tax deficit was down to £3.87m following a full-year pre-tax loss in 1980 of £10.96m on sales of £90m. Borrowings stood at £33.66m in July against shareholders' funds of £19.07m. Stocks had been cut by well over a third.

Mr John Abbot, chairman of Lesney Matchbox Toys says: "This coming 12 months could be recovery year after a survival year. We should get back to profit this year. Not that it is going to be an easy year for anybody".

Mr Abbott who has had a lifetime in the toy industry, pins hopes on 80 new products in Lesney's four categories, the die-cast models of which it is the world's largest manufacturer, motor racing sets, plastic model-making kits and pre-school toys.

Orders so far this year are a third up on last year's poor results but 15 per cent up on the more realistic comparison of 1980, Mr Abbott says. At the end of last year Lesney was not holding any obsolete or excess stock.

Selling Lesney: Mr Abbott and full-size model dwarfed by a giant hand

BROOKE BOND

Another unhappy trip to Europe

Yet another British food manufacturing company has found Europe a less than happy experience (Sally White writes). Lyons, Rowntree and Unigate have all suffered their various defeats. Brooke Bond Group has decided that such is the state of the market that it would rather get out altogether. It sold its German subsidiary Jokisch to the American group, Pillsbury for £2m a few months ago, and now it has disposed of its interests in France, Italy and the Benelux countries of £7m.

Brooke Bond is what is described as a mature company in the jargon of industry analysts. It has yet to convince the major funds that it has any new ideas up its sleeve as a growth stock for the 1980s, and, therefore, the share price stays fairly low so that a two-figure yield can be earned on an investment in the shares.

The sally into a new area was not well regarded — Brooke Bond picked up the timber business of Mallinson Denny in a dawn raid just over a year ago.

The European sales not only provide £9m cash, they also release £6m worth of borrowings. What will the money go on?

John Thompson, top executive at Brooke Bond, says that they are looking to expand in America. There is also the new coffee brand "Red Mountain" that was launched last year — new launches are expensive. Some of the money will go on Mallinson-Denny.

Analysts put the rating at a prospective level of just over 8 per cent, and the yield at just over 10 per cent. The share price yesterday rose 1½p to 54p.

The problems in Europe, according to Mr Thompson, are not so dissimilar from those in Britain. The "big battalions" are increasingly squeezing out small companies, even those with such good brand names as Brooke Bond. On the other side the retailers are cutting back on manufacturers' margins. BSN-Gervais Danone, the French group which is buying up most of the Brooke Bond interests, is at least fighting on its own ground.

UNITECH

Shares up on US purchase

Losses in Germany and a much reduced profit in France have pushed electronics group Unitech's profits down 38 per cent in the opening half.

The fall was forewarned by Chairman Mr Peter Curry who said four months ago that profits for the full year to next May would be about the same as the £4.2m reported last year.

But a 10 per cent dividend rise and news that the group's second half will benefit from a four-month contribution from Milwaukee-based Erie Manufacturing was enough to lift the shares — 10p down at one point — to close 10p up at 235p.

The Half-time dividend is increased from a gross 3.6p to 4p and the £528,000 cost is covered around one and a half times by attributable profits. That has left £304,000 not distributed against £1.32m last time.

Above the line, sales fell 10 per cent to £39.9m and even with a lower interest charge, pre-tax profits fell from £1.38m to £1.47m for the six month to November 29 last.

Mr Curry says that destocking of micro-processors hit Germany and France, but there were now signs that the worst was over.

Unitech is paying $8.4m (£4.5m) for Erie which makes and sells valves and other control components to the energy, water purification and medical equipment markets. Unitech's United Kingdom offshoot, Appliance Components, has been agent for the group since 1977.

The purchase is based on a warranty that net worth at the end of last December was not less than $5.6m and that net profit before management fees and tax for the same period will be at least $1.8m.

GOLD FIELDS

Second dividend

Gold Fields of South Africa said yesterday that pre-tax profits for the first six months to the end of December had fallen to R52.8m (£29.3m) from R89.7m.

But the company has declared a second interim dividend of 165 cents, bringing payments in the current financial year to 180 cents, the same as at this time last year. Pre-tax profits for the whole of the previous year were R167m, and the dividend 500 cents.

While these figures are almost wholly attributable to the fall in the price of gold — as the decline in Gold Fields dividend income from R84.4m to R50.2m shows — the heavy $469m (£252m) loss incurred in 1981 by Inco, the Canadian nickle producer, was caused mainly by two exceptional items.

Inco's losses were in large part made in the final quarter when the company included in its results a provision of $245m for the disposal of battery and other businesses of Inco Electro Energy and $220m for loans to and debts of Exmibal, the mothballed Guatamala nickel mine.

But Inco made a trading loss in the final three months even after these exceptional items have been removed. The loss was $40.6m compared with net earnings of $48.4m for the same period of 1980. Profits earlier in the year, however, enabled Inco to make net earnings of $20.4m against $250m in 1980.

Inco, whose share of the world nickel market it once dominated has steadily fallen, said that net sales for the year were down from $2,150m to $1,886m. Despite a full year loss of $6.51 a share, Inco has declared a fourth quarter dividend of 5 cents. But the company has managed to reduce nickel inventories from 155 million pounds at the end of 1980 to 144 million pounds.

PRESTIGE

Profits rise

Prestige Group has again shown how to keep effective control over finances with a 16 per cent pre-tax profits rise achieved against a tough market last year.

Prestige, whose chairman is Mr David Lawman, pushed profits up to £6.62m in the year to December compared with £5.7m last time. Sales, however, fell marginally by £700,000 to £64m. The group sells products under trade names such as Skyline and Ewbank.

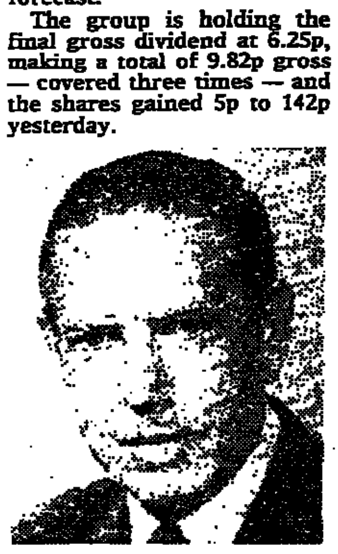
Improvements in productivity and efficiency are behind the profits rise through further capital investment and tight control of working capital.

Increased earnings from its Australian and South African subsidiaries offset the continuing depressed demand in the United Kingdom and the group's European markets. Return on capital employed is similar to last year, 22 per cent.

Prestige, with 74 per cent of its equity held by American Home Products, continues to earn 64 per cent of profits from the United Kingdom and believes conditions this year will improve.

January sales, however, affected by both the weather and rail strikes, give no indication of present trading and the group is giving no forecast.

The group is holding the final gross dividend at 6.25p, making a total of 9.82p gross — covered three times — and the shares gained 5p to 142p yesterday.



Mr David Lawman, of Prestige

After bank overdrafts the balance sheet shows an increased cash position with £3.44m on deposit against £2.25m. The results include £351,000 extraordinary item for the write-down of surplus land and buildings in Belgium and a £31,000 net loss after disposal of three subsidiaries. They were sold for £889,000.

COWAN, DE GROOT

End of an era

Times continue to be hard for Cowan, De Groot, the toys, giftware and electrical wholesalers. After 20 years of growth, profits fell £1.65m for the year to April, 1981, and decline has continued into the first half year to October with taxable profits falling from £844,000 to £421,000, and sales slipping from £23.4m to £22.72m.

The group's assurance that finances are still strong and profits will improve persuaded the stock market, which had already discounted the share price, that recovery was in the offing. The ordinary share price rose 4p to 35p, which gives the company a market capitalization of around £5m.

Mr Derrick Cowan, chairman, said overall trading conditions throughout the industry and in the group remain difficult and significant profit for the second half will be hard to generate, but next year should see improvement.

Reorganization of the electrical division, which saw its profits severely eroded last year, should be completed by the end of the financial year after which benefits should start to accrue, he said.

INTERNATIONAL

UNITED STATES

Car production in United States, plunged almost 39 per cent in January from 1981 levels, to stand at the lowest production for the month in 35 years.

● The head of the United Auto Workers Union has praised Ford in America for having "a better attitude" than General Motors after beginning a new round of concession talks aimed at helping Ford compete with foreign manufacturers.

FRANCE

The Peugeot car company intends to shut down production lines at its plant at Sochaux, near Paris, for three days this month, because of insufficient orders. More than 20,000 workers will be affected.

● France's seasonally adjusted unemployment rose a provisional 0.9 per cent to 1,919,000 in January from the revised 1,902,000 in December.

● France's second biggest pulp and paper group La Rochette Cenpa, in which the United States Saint Regis group holds 28 per cent, is expecting an improvement in results this year after running up heavy losses in 1981.

BELGIUM

Some 25 per cent of shares of Banque Bruxeliess Lambert are up for sale after changes in Groupe Bruxelles Lambert which owns just under half the bank. Apparently purchasers are being sought abroad as well as in Belgium.

● Belgian unemployment at the end of January soared to a post-war high 10.6 per cent or 439,400 workers. It fell short of the 450,000 predicted by the government but an economic analyst said that level could soon be passed.

NETHERLANDS

Seasonally adjusted industrial production in the Netherlands fell 0.9 per cent to a provisional 114 (1975=100) in November from an upwards revised 115 in October and was also 0.9 per cent below its level a year earlier.

W GERMANY

The engineering unit of the Krupp industrial group in Essen received DM530m order from Saudi Arabia for the delivery of a Cement Plant.

JAPAN

Japan will probably review its import quota system on 27 products after June's economic summit of 7 Western nations in Paris as another step to open the Japanese market to foreign goods.

ITALY

Montedison, the chemical group, has signed a contract in Milan to produce 100,000 metric tons annually of petrochemicals and plastics for Mexico's state oil company Pemex using Mexican crude.

DENMARK

Denmark is arranging three foreign credits totalling a provisional $800m to cover its current payments and state budget deficits.

Latest results

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Cowan, de Groot (I)	22.7(23.4)	0.42(0.84)	1.8(4.3)	1(1)	¼	—(3.5)
Gold Fields of SA (I)	—(—)	52.8b(89.7b)	306c(533c)	180c(180c)	26/3	—(500c)
I D C (F)	40.9(45.2)	1.21(1.03)	29.7(7.0)	4.2(3.8)	—	5.5(5.06)
Prestige (F)	64.1(64.8)	6.62(5.66)	—(—)	4.3(4.3)	—	6.8(6.8)
Reed Int. (9 months)	1,244(1.090)	55.7(42.1)	37.4(25.2)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Unitech (I)	39.9(44.7)	1.4(2.3)	4.4(9.5)	2.8(2.52)	¼	—(7.0)
Five Oaks (F)	0.28(0.3)	0.011(0.003)	0.08(1.1)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Garton Eng (I)	4.87(6.57)	0.2a(0.34)	—(—)	—(3.15)	—	—(4.15)
Goodman Bros (F)	10.9(13.9)	0.23(0.43)	8.63(1.95)	1(0.96)	26/11	1(0.96)
Frank G. Gates (I)	17.5(19.7)	0.63(0.73)	5.1(5.2)	—(—)	—	—(2.0)
Keep Inv (I)	—(—)	0.025(0.037)	0.16(0.18)	0.15(0.15)	27/10	—(0.39)
Thomas Walker (F)	1.63(1.84)	0.1(0.16)	1.35(1.29)	0.5(0.5)	6/11	0.7(0.74)
Westmn & C Prps (F)	3.5(2.3)	0.56(0.42)	17(14.8)	2.7(2)	—	4(3)
Westpool Inv (F)	—(—)	1.61(0.75)	0.95(1.61)	0.76(—)	10/11	1.1(1.57b)
Utd Glass (F)	175(176)	4.24a(4.21a)	—(—)	—(—	—	—(—)
Zetters (I)	6.12)5.88)	0.46(0.73)	3.43(5.39)	0.8(0.8)	8/4	—(2.75)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. a=Trading Profit; b=S. African rands; c=S. African cents.

BIDS AND DEALS

Francis Industries Group says its industrial components businesses will be managed by a new company, C.S. International which it has recently formed. S.S.I. is now to be strengthened further by Francis's acquisition of Yorkshire Engineering Supplies a non-ferrous foundry based at Leeds, for £222,500, £74,000 payable on completion and the balance two years later.

Expanded Metal has sold its West Midland Steel Stockholders subsidiary to C Walker and Sons, one of the major steel stockholding and processing groups in the United Kingdom. The total consideration is the net asset value of £918,500 against £1.75m for 1980.

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES

For the fourth quarter of 1981 General Motors made an operating loss of $136m (£72.7m), but a tax credit of $115m and profit of $118m from General Motors Acceptance, the company's financing arm, boosted net income to $97m, or 31 cents a share, compared with a profit of $62 a year earlier. Sales fell from $16,200m to $15,600m.

For the full year, GM reported an operating loss of $138m. A tax credit of $123m and profit of $348m from the financial unit, however, enabled the company to post a profit of $333m, against a loss of $763m in 1980. Sales rose from $57,800m to $62,800m.

GM will probably be the only major United States car maker to show a profit for 1981. Nevertheless, company executives called 1981 another difficult and disappointing year. The company also said it expects severe pressures on profitability in the near term because of the nation's weak economy.

Lockheed which reported a large loss for 1981 from the discontinuation of its L-1011 jetliner programme, says it is now in a sound position to embark on a programme of growth and earnings improvement. It reported a net loss for 1981 of $292.9m (£157m), or $18.03 a primary share, compared with a profit of $22.4m, or $1.53 a share, in 1980.

Groupe Bruxelles Lambert of Belgium will not propose a dividend for 1981 because of the difficulties of its two main wings.

It paid no dividend in 1980 either, but paid 100 francs per share in 1979.

COMMODITIES

COPPER was steadier.—Afternoon.—Higher grade cash £864-64.50; three months £895-95.50. Sales: 19,375 tonnes. Cash standard cathodes, £862-64 three months, £888-89. Sales: nil tonnes. Morning.— Higher grade cash, £862-63, three months £892-92.50. Settlement, £863. Sales: 10,875 tonnes. Cash standard cathodes, £861-62: three months, £888.50-89.00. Settlement, £862. Sales: 500 tonnes.

TIN was steadier.—Afternoon.—Standard cash, £8600-10 a tonne: three months £7970-75. Sales, 1,825 tonnes. High grade, cash £8600-10: three months £7970-75. Sales, nil tonnes. Morning.—Standard cash £8540-50: three months £7950-60. Settlement, £8550. Sales, 3,995 tonnes. High grade, cash £8540-50: three months, £7980-90. Settlement, £8550. Sales, 10 tonnes. Singapore tin ex-works, $M34.80 a picul.

LEAD was steadier.—Afternoon.—Cash £347-48 per tonne; three months £365-65.50. [illegible] Morning.—Cash [illegible]; three months £355-55.50. Settlement £348. Sales, 9,800 tonnes.

ZINC was steadier. Afternoon. Cash £457.50 per tonne; three months £464-65. Sales, 5,600 tonnes. Morning. Cash £449.50-49.00, three months £455.50-56.00. Settlement, £449. Sales, 3,700 tonnes.

PLATINUM was at £193.35 ($361) a troy ounce.

SILVER was quiet. Bullion market (fixing levels). Spot 434.45p per troy ounce (United States cents equivalent, 805); three months 449.45p [illegible]; six months, 464.05p [illegible]; one year 494.25p [illegible]. London Metal Exchange. Afternoon. Cash 437.30p, three months 453-53.5p. Sales, 19 lots of 10,000 troy ounces each. Morning. Cash, 434.35p, three months 450.2-50.3p. Settlement, 435p. Sales, 46 lots.

ALUMINIUM was steadier. Afternoon. Cash £595.97 per tonne; three months £619.20. Sales, 2,500 tonnes. Morning. Cash £598.99, three months £622-22.5. Settlement, £599. Sales, 154 tonnes.

NICKEL was firmer. Afternoon. Cash £3110-20 per tonne, three months £3155-58. Sales, 498 tonnes.

COFFEE.—ROBUSTAS (£ per tonne). Mch 1230-1231, May 1183-1184, Jly 1154-1155, Sep 1144-1146, Nov 1138-1139, Jan 1126-1135, Mch 1116-1130.

RUBBER (pence per kilo). [illegible]

COCOA (£ per metric ton). Mch 1154-1152, May 1143-1144, Jly 1154-1155, Sep 1169-1170, Dec 1185-1187, Mch 1201-1203, May 1208-1213. Sales: 3,302 lots including one option. [illegible]

WALL STREET

New York, Feb 2.—Stocks closed narrowly higher in moderate trading as investors moved to the sidelines amid conflicting signals on interest rates.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished up 0.86 at 852.55. Advances led declines by around 800 to 630 and volume slipped to 45,000,000 shares from 47,720,000 yesterday.

Most leading banks raised the prime rate to 16½ per cent today, following the lead of Citibank and Crocker National on Monday. However, a dip in the Federal funds rate boosted the bond market somewhat, which in turn influenced stocks, experts said.

	Feb 2	Feb 1
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Canadian Prices

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

* Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Britton and NIESR

The publicly — and charitably — funded National Institute for Economic and Social Research, bastion of Keyneysianism and arch critic of the Government's economic policies, may be in for a shake-up.

Unlike the departing David Worswick, director for 16 years, Andrew Britton, who takes over in October, is no committed Keynesian.

Britton is currently an Under Secretary at the Treasury, concerned with monetary policy. He spent a sabbatical year in the monetarists camp at the London Business School, home of the so-called "international monetarism".

There Britton wrote an (unpublished) paper on the world economy and chewed the fat with Terry Burns, later appointed chief economist to the Government. Britton, 41, says that he does not accept economics as a "package deal" and says that there is much to attract him in the "new Keynesianism" of Professor James Meade, guru of the Social Democratic Party.

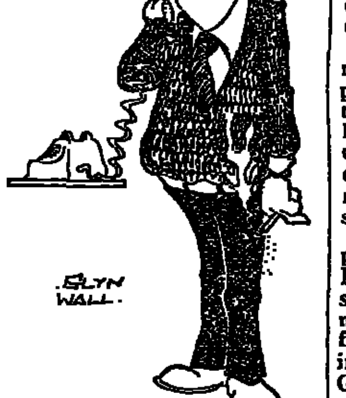
Gold in them thar tills

Chris Hales, the former stock jobber and commodity dealer *who now heads the Ladbroke* Index, is now making a book in everything, from the movement in the London price of gold to the number of goals scored in the 52 World Cup soccer games.

There was one game on which he wouldn't give me a bet yesterday, however, and that was how the Trident Television appeal against the loss of the Playboy and Clermont casinos might go.

"No comment. Very delicate area", laughed Hales, conscious of the fact that a couple of years ago Ladbroke's would have given very long odds against being out of the casino business by 1982.

On gold Hales was more helpful. he said: "I feel that gold had gone down far enough and the next move will be on the up side."



"I'd like a premium reduction — starting today, I've changed to a low tar brand."

Singapore and after

John Marsh, the former director of the British Institute of Management, has a poignant mixture of business and remembrance ahead of him when he flies out to the Far East this week.

He will go first to Bombay *where, in his capacity* as consultant to the Voltas trading subsidiary of the Indian group Tata, he will discuss Anglo-Indian and third country deals.

Marsh will then proceed to Singapore for meetings in connection with his chairmanship of Executive Resources International and as a director of New Product Management.

But February 15, the fortieth anniversary of the fall of Singapore, will find Marsh laying wreaths. This is on behalf of the Far East Prisoners' Club of London, of which he is founder-member No 1, and of the Royal Army Service Corps, Singapore Fortress, of which *in 1940 Major Marsh* was acting head.

Marsh, now 68, was one of the lucky ones. He was down to two-thirds of his normal weight when liberated from the River Kwai base camp in Thailand. But 320 of the 500 men in his unit did not come back at all.

Ross Davies

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Cecil J. Baker and Mr Michael I. Gee have been appointed directors of United Real Property Trust.

Mr Erwin Bielinski, head of Brown Boveri International, has *been appointed chairman* of Brown Boveri Kent (Holdings).

Mr C. P. Nichols, chairman and managing director of George Nichols (plastering), has been elected president of the National Federation of Plastering Contractors for 1982/83. The new senior vice-president is Mr K. G. Simon, Telling Plasterers, who is managing director of the HAT Group's plastering division. The junior vice-president is Mr V. M. Hall, senior partner of Hall and Mann.

Dr Basil Bard, chairman of the New Product Management Group, a former managing director of the National Research Development Corporation, has been appointed a director of The Technology and Innovations Exchange (TIE) with special responsibility for licensing.

President Reagan and Fed chairman Volcker versus Chancellor Howe, French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy and Chancellor Schmidt

David Blake on a new battle of the Atlantic

Time to untangle the interest rates mess

Three extraordinary developments in the United States in the past 10 days lie behind the Governor of the Bank of England's attack on American interest rate policy on Monday night.

On Tuesday of last week, President Reagan announced that after weeks of public *anguish he had decided* not to increase indirect taxes as all his advisers had told him to do. At the same time, Federal Reserve president Paul Volcker announced that *he did not intend to push up* interest rates, a clear sign that he was seeking to head off Administration criticism of the Fed.

Next day, United States Treasury Secretary Donald Regan went before Congress with a different criticism. The Federal Reserve Board had failed to get money supply under short-term control, thus contributing to uncertainty in financial markets.

As one expert observer remarked yesterday it is hard to make more mistakes within one 24 hour period than that.

Yet the fear in Europe this week is that it is the rest of the world, not the United States, which will suffer as result of the mess into which American economic policies have descended. In particular, the Europeans fear that *they may be forced into* having high interest rates for years to come because of American policies.

This would choke off European recovery, unless they decided to accept that low interest rates here would produce a drop in their currencies and thus increased inflation.

The speech by the Governor, following on similar pronouncements last week by the Chancellor and other European leaders is a last-ditch effort to head off that choice. Few people are optimistic about the chances of success.

Just two weeks ago, the picture looked very different. Interest rates in Europe seemed set to fall following a meeting of the Group of Five finance ministers representing America, Britain, France, Germany and Japan over the weekend of January 16. Following those talks there was heavy interventions in the foreign exchange markets and cuts *in* interest rates in major European centres. Word got around that concerted action had been agreed on over that *weekend* to reduce interest rates around the world.

It is now clear that no such agreement was reached even in Europe. What happened was that the German authorities decided to try to push their interest rates down and some of the smaller countries in Europe used the leeway this gave them to move their own interest rates down.

The motives behind the German action were clear. They wanted to achieve two things at once. Cutting interest rates should help revive the flagging German economy at a time when unemployment (at more than 1.7 million) has become a major national issue.

At the same time they want *to see the mark up against* the dollar to reduce their inflation rate; they want above all to prevent a drop in the exchange rate pushing up German inflation.

For the Germans, like all Europeans, the ideal way for this to happen would be for the Americans to move. Since early last year Germany has *been pressing* the Americans to bring interest rates down. Just before Christmas it looked as if they had succeeded; interest rates in New York fell significantly, taking the pressure off Europe.

It has become clear in the past few weeks that this respite was temporary. To understand why this is so, it is vital to analyse the forces at work in the American economy, which still dominates all others.

American interest rates are set by the market's views about what is needed to *ensure* that the Fed meets its target of keeping the chosen measure of money supply (M1) under control.

On paper, the American authorities set themselves a narrower target than do those in Britain; but in fact M-1, *such* is the inventiveness of the American banking *system*, includes *lots* of interest-earning accounts of the sort which only get counted in the wide definition (M-3) in Britain.

The result of this is that in the short term attempts to control it through raising interest rates are as likely to suck money in as they are to choke off loan demand.

> 'The concern in Europe is that the rest of the world, not America, will suffer from the US interest rates mess.'

Because of this, the Fed's efforts to bring down money supply by raising interest rates have met with little success. But it needs to increase the doses as a *response to the failure of the* treatment. The only internal American response to this dilemma would be for the Government to cut the Budget deficit by raising taxes, something which President Reagan refused to do last week.

The American authorities are thus saddled with a set of policies which result in two undesirable elements. The first is that in order to bring down monetary growth in the long term interest rates have to be very high. The second is that in the short term the American money supply is bound to vary a lot. This is why the three American *statements* last week were so dangerously inconsistent.

Faced with this problem, the European nations have adopted a two-pronged ap*proach. The governments are* lecturing the American Government on the need to cut its deficit. This will ease the long-term pressure on money supply, though possibly at the cost of a renewed recession.

This is running right up against a stone wall from the American Administration. The Governor of the Bank of England has taken a different view. This is that it is the obsession with short term monetary control which is more to blame — a statement which provokes echoes of the Bank's view about Britain's monetarist experiment. He is recommending a broad brush approach on the part of the American authorities to monetary control.

But this runs slap into the extraordinary statement last week by the United States' Treasury Secretary attacking the Fed's failure to keep short-term control of the money aggregates.

Where does this leave the Europeans? They want their currencies to remain stable but they also want to get their interest rates down at a time when world interest rates (set by the United States) are rising.

They believe that the United States is moving into current account deficit and some countries (notably Germany) are moving into surplus, thus giving hope of a weaker dollar next year. But they face a testing time in the next few months.

Their top target is to head off a new round of interest rises in Europe; the German Bundesbank yesterday took the unusual step of telling the world that it would keep its interest rates unchanged this week, *no* doubt in an effort to forestall pressure for a new rise in interest rates.

What is completely lacking is any idea of whatr to do next. At the Ottowa economic summit in July last year, the Americans were given a blunt warning that they had until the end of 1981 to bring down interest rates which were, Helmut Schmidt said: "at their highest level since the birth of Christ."

None of the factors which pushed them there have *improved since last July.*

The fear which is beginning to dawn is that the whole system may be unstable. The argument goes like this. When a major country goes into large deficit on its payments, it is forced to take progressively tougher measures at home to right its economy. These take time to work and in the short term a devalation of currencies makes the trade deficit bigger, because exporters receive less for their goods.

After time, the combination of measures produces overkill. Tight domestic policy at home and repeated devaluation produce a lurch into surplus. As that happens, the currency goes up in value and the surplus gets bigger.

On this theory the dollar is on one of its upward swings. This is forcing the Europeans to deflate and forcing down the value of their currencies.

That is bad enough but at some point soon, the swing could start to move the other way, with rising European currencies and a falling dollar, as people finally decide that America has not got its deficits and inflation under control.

So far, the countries of the West have stood apart from each other shouting: "Can't you see you are hurting me." What has so far been lacking, and what seems not to be in sight, is an agreement that we *are* hurting ourselves and a notion of what can be done to stop that.

Shaping up for the jobs race

AT WORK: THE IMAGE-MAKERS

By Margareta Pagano

Sally Fear

London Academy of Modelling principal Cheryl Hughes shows her namesake, teacher John Hughes, how his students' image can be improved during last week's open day.

The casual uncared-for image is out, the formal look is in — *that is* if you are looking for work.

As more people are competing in the jobs market and face redundancy there is a discernible swing to the importance of the neat, the *outwardly capable and* professional image.

Employers, as they now meet and have to choose from bewildering numbers of applicants for each vacancy, certainly think so. Recruitment liaison officer for Barclays Bank, Mr Frank Belcher, is quite sure.

"It is now even more crucial than ever for school leavers to give an extremely good impression of themselves in this highly competitive market. We are still conservative enough in banking to want men in two-piece suits, girls in skirts and dresses and overall good appearance," he says.

Mr B lcher says he always stresse: to the employer the importance of first impressions when talking to school leavers. "Many students ask whether it isn't hypocritical to dress just for the interview. I tell them that once they get a job, they can adapt."

But getting the job is the key. Already this year Barclays believes it has just about filled its own intake. Last year it employed only 1,700 school leavers out of 68,000 applications nationally. In 1979 they took 8,000 out of 48,000 and in the 1970s averaged 10,000 staff annually — largely due also to greater turnover of employees. The picture else*where is hardly* any brighter.

Mrs Cheryl Hughes, principal of the London Academy of Modelling, is one who makes it her business to show the students entering the academy's polished corridors why grooming, poise and confidence are so essential for success in interviews.

"It is ultimately belief in yourself and the confidence that comes from that which can help sway the employer, the interviewer", she says. "First Impressions" is the course which Mrs Hughes has devised to help achieve just that. A day's workshop, "*First Impressions" is open* to people of any age but is geared mainly to school leavers for either pupils leaving at 16 or those in the sixth form.

But a diverse mixture of other groups have found their way to the academy, from members of the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs, Suf*folk* County Council to the London borough of Waltham Forest and British Airways.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

The academy has run the course for girls since last April with a minimum of 50 students per day — at £3.50 cost to each person — every day of the week. Mrs Hughes — who came to the academy last February after selling her own modelling business in Australia because she was bored — described the venture as a considerable success.

By sending out their brochures to each school or college in the land, she finds the word has soon spread. An open day is held for representatives such as teachers who then report back to the schools on whether they find the course useful.

Feedback from the girls course has been such that Mrs Hughes is now running a similar one for boys. An open day was held last week and the first course is booked for February 16. One of the first schools involved is the St Marks School, a comprehensive in Fulham and two thirds of those attending will be boys.

Mrs Hughes does not believe high unemployment has influenced her. "The first impression you give to an *employer, socially* or for any interview, has always been important. That is really no different now to the 1950s when the economic climate was better," she says.

The establishment's own slogan hits a vulnerable point: "Your students will never have a second chance to make a first impression".

The day starts with a talk by Mrs Hughes, then goes on to a session on deportment, poise and posture. Making an entrance is followed by personality projection, interviewing techniques and the approach to employers. This confidence building is the hub, but equally important, says Mrs Hughes, is the afternoon's session on outward appearance.

The staff — all specialized in training fashion models — are there to give their guidance. Both boys and girls are balmed with advice on dress sense and clothes maintenance. And, while the boys learn about hair care and dieting, the girls are taught the very discreetest make-up and given skin care hints.

Mrs Hughes does not fear the boys will be either too inhibited or shy to benefit: "They have tended to be a bit sceptical but, once they see what goes on, they enjoy it as much as anyone else and don't regard it as cissy".

There is just one act of sex discrimination — the academy offers the girl who shows the most model potential a free modelling course, worth £198.

Sister Margaret Mary is a teacher at the Ursuline Convent, a comprehensive school in Brentwood. Last week Mrs Hughes and her team visited the school and Sister Margaret Mary is enthusiastic about the benefits of the course.

"This is one aspect that schools can't really offer the girls or, if they did, they are unlikely to take much notice of teachers telling them how important it is", says Sister Margaret.

About 70 per cent of the school's girls go on to university, so the experiment was aimed originally at those who will be looking for jobs this summer.

No-one is denying the value of academic and personal achievements in the search for jobs, but instinct points to the added bonus of presentation. Youngsters aged between 16 and 24 now make up 1.7 million of the 3.07 million unemployed — and nearly 150,000 of these are school leavers under 18.

Such ventures as this are certainly more practical than the sad sight on television recently of school classes being held to show pupils how to fill in our Department of Employment and Social Security forms.

As Mr John Golby, in charge of recruitment for the Prudential insurance company, reminds us, most prospective employers have a seven-point plan — circumstances, attainment, physical appearance, intelligence, aptitudes, interests and disposition. An eighth has recently been added — motivation.

● *The At Work column, which examines the whole employment scene, will appear every Wednesday*

Business Editor

Banks ready to do their duty

When the banks were hit with the "windfall" profits tax in the last Budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer was at pains to emphasize that this was a one-off tax while the banks for their part pointed out that 1980 profits represented a cyclical peak — an argument both for not levying the tax in the first place and for certainly not repeating it.

In the event, the banks to their embarrassment will soon be reporting even higher profits for 1981 — a total of £1,599m for the big four, according to stockbrokers W. Greenwell, which would be a rise of nearly a tenth on the so-called peak. Furthermore Greenwell reckon that 1982 profits could be higher again, at about £2,038m.

So far, there has been little indication that the Chancellor will levy another windfall tax, although most bankers are not prepared to discount the possibility entirely. But, perhaps conscious of the need to show they are playing their part, the banks seem to be showing a growing appreciation of the Grylls proposals to reduce the interest burden on industry's loans.

The idea of this scheme, *which could find its way* into the Budget in some form, is that industry should receive immediate tax relief on the interest on loans of over five years, instead of having to wait to offset the interest against corporation tax.

This would be achieved by companies paying interest net of the *corporation* tax rate, effectively halving the interest burden on many industrial loans and thus giving a welcome boost to cash flow. The Grylls committee argues that the Exchequer will not lose out because new investment and jobs will ultimately provide an offsetting increase in tax take. But someone has to bear the temporary cash flow burden and it is now being proposed that this should land on the banks.

Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, chairman of Nat West is reported to have told the Conservative backbench industry committee recently that he thought this would be a reasonable burden. The banks, having provided tax relief to industry by accepting interest payments in net form, would then offset the "loss" against their corporation tax liability a year or 18 months later. It has been suggested that the banks would charge a premium on these loans to meet this cash flow cost, although *there could well be cost* savings for the banks in the scheme anyway.

For instance it would most encourage industry to switch hardcore overdraft finance into term loans which would be much cheaper for the banks to administer. If the Grylls proposals in some form are introduced, it would also have important implications for the bank's leasing business which would need to be considered. But in any case it would not be surprising to see the banks prepared to bear some of the cost of the scheme if only to forestall another windfall tax.

The economy

Facing reality

The TUC could hardly have chosen a better day to put out its call for an £8,000m-plus expansionary package. The latest CBI industrial trends survey, also out yesterday, is distinctly lack*ing in evidence to back* the more optimistic noises that have been emanating recently from some Cabinet ministers — Mr Francis Pym excepted.

Basically, what the CBI is saying is this: if there is light at the end of the tunnel, it is still fairly faint — so faint indeed that a good number of our members are having trouble perceiving it at all.

But if that seems to provide a timely moment for the TUC to speak out on the need for substantial expansion, it knows full well that its case will be treated as no more than cannon fodder for those who relish attacking fiscal irresponsibility. Even the CBI is unlikely to be asking for much more than a modest expansion when it comes to make its formal Budget proposals next week. Its main concern is likely to be that the emphasis of the Chancellor's measures is laid on helping industry rather than the personal sector.

The more pertinent question is whether the apparent tax give aways that seem likely to occur on Budget day will in fact add up to any expansion at all. For whatever may be given away to the corporate sector, or over and above the basic indexation of allowances and tax bands on *the personal* front, has to be set against the increased *national insurance contributions* to be made by employees.

Complicating the picture still further now are the latest developments in international interest rates. The Government, quite rightly, goes in fear of develop*ments in the American* economy this year wrecking prospects for their United Kingdom strategy.

Reed

Disappointing

Despite the bingo war — *Fleet Street's latest form of* hara-kiri — Mirror Group Newspapers managed to break even in the third quarter of the current year to March. Nevertheless there is a growing suspicion that at least one title, probably the Daily Mirror, is up for sale. Certainly owner Reed International was showing little sign of commitment to national newspapers yesterday.

Over the past 12 months, Reed has committed around £20m in picking up three regional newspaper chains where the new technology (actually Sixties technology) reduces printing costs and where advertising *revenue through free sheets* is relatively buoyant. After the *on-off* decision to close Odhams printing works last week, Reed could well decide to reduce its involvement in national publishing.

The cover price rise at the Daily Mirror last autumn and cost cutting at IPC magazines helped to *mitigate the effects of a 25* per cent increase in newsprint, caused by the fall in sterling. Elsewhere in the group, last year's rationalization in the wall-covering and paper divisions have helped to bring them back into profit, while building products held steady despite the recession.

Yet the market was disappointed at a nine-month out-turn of £55.7m pre-tax against £42.1m. Forecasts for the full year to next month have been downgraded from £80m to £73m or £75m pre-tax.

Much depends on the outcome of the talks at Odhams. If there is to be a *closure at Watford*, then redundancy costs in the final quarter could total *£5m*. Quarterly profits this year have been erratic with the first producing £23.1m, the second £14.9m and the third £17.7m It is asking a lot for Reed to make over £20m in the final quarter when demand is still low.

At the third-quarter *stage, sales rose from* £1,090m to £1,244, with £944m accruing from the United Kingdom and exports. Yet overseas activities accounted £28.8m of total trading profits due partly to the decline of the *Canadian dollar against* the United States currency, which is magnified by translation into sterling.

Reed shares have enjoyed a good run-up over the past six months but fell back 4p to 274p yesterday.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crds.	14%
C. Hoare & Co	*14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams & Glyn's	14%

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000 11¼%, £10,000 up to £50,000 12¼%, £50,000 and over 12¾%.

The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div(p)	Yld %	P/E Actual	P/E Fully Taxed
123	100	ABI Hldgs 10% CULS	121	-1	10.0	8.3	—	—
75	62	Airsprung Group	70	—	4.7	6.7	11.1	15.4
51	33	Armitage & Rhodes	45	—	4.3	9.6	3.8	8.5
205	187	Bardon Hill	204	-1	9.7	4.8	9.9	12.1
104	79	Deborah Services	79	-1	6.0	7.6	3.9	7.4
130	97	Frank Horsell	128	-1	6.4	5.0	11.5	23.7
78	39	Frederick Parker	78	—	1.7	2.2	33.9	—
78	46	George Blair	50	—	—	—	—	—
102	93	IPC	95	—	7.3	7.7	6.8	10.3
105	100	Isis Conv Pref	105	—	15.7	15.0	—	—
113	95	Jackson Group	95	—	7.0	7.4	3.0	6.7
130	108	James Burrough	112	-1	8.7	7.8	8.2	10.3
334	250	Robert Jenkins	250	—	31.3	12.5	3.5	8.8
59	51	Scruttons "A"	55	—	5.3	9.6	8.5	7.9
222	165	Torday & Carlisle	165	-1	10.7	6.5	5.3	9.8
15	10	Twinlock Ord	13	-½	—	—	—	—
80	66	Twinlock 15% ULS	76	—	15.0	19.7	—	—
44	27	Unilock Holdings	27	—	3.0	11.1	4.8	8.2
103	75	Walter Alexander	75	—	6.4	8.5	4.9	8.7
263	212	W. S. Yeates	218	—	13.1	6.0	4.1	8.4

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146

Cricket

West Indies discover again that sheer pace is not enough

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Adelaide, Feb 2

Australia fought a great fight in the third Test match against West Indies here today, with Border, Laird, Hughes and Marsh all having a part in it.

Hughes's 72 not out typified the Australian performance. Able only to hobble out, and with Dyson to run for him, he came in at 201 for three and madeup for his immobility with intense concentration. By close of play Australia, with six second-innings wickets in hand, including Chappell's, had a lead of 190 and a fair chance of saving the match.

The pitch is now a beauty for batting, the sun having had a lot to do with it, and West Indies could yet find themselves chasing runs. To level the series they need to win here; but whether they do or not it has been a splendid match, even allowing for the monotony of the West Indian attack. For fear of seeming unfair to West Indies, their over rate has been getting on for 16 to the hour, which in these days is not in fact contemptible.

Between Garner, Holding, Croft and Roberts there has been little to choose. They have taken a wicket apiece, but they found once again that sheer pace was not enough. In four of West Indies' last five Test matches this has been the case—in Antigua and Jamaica against England, in Sydney a month ago and now in Adelaide. However, Australia have a lot to do yet before the match is safe. They have a long tail and Chappell's left hand is still too swollen for an X-ray examination to show whether or not it is broken.

No praise is too high for Hughes. With a broken big toe on his left foot and a badly bruised instep on his right he had to play very much within himself. In an inverted kind of way this could have been a good thing; such is his talent and his urge to express it that he often gets himself out. Today, for nearly three hours and a half, he applied himself to survival, branching out only to force anything short through the covers off the back foot. In six hours' play Australia lost two wickets while scoring 241 runs.

The morning's tally was 72 from 32 overs for no wicket. Early on the West Indians thought they had Border caught at the wicket down the leg side. Both Border and Laird played very soundly and towards lunch Lloyd had Gomes bowling from one end and Richards from the other, the idea being to hurry on the new ball. It was a battle of attrition, which had the unwavering attention of another good crowd. I am beginning to think that of all the overseas grounds Adelaide is the most agreeable for watching Test cricket—at any rate until we play in Cape Town again.

Hughes: no praise too high for his performance

Between lunch and tea another 87 runs were added off 31 overs and at 201 Laird was caught at the wicket, though he himself seemed not to think so. His third-wicket partnership with Border was worth 166; they will never share a better one. The new ball, taken at 225 for three, did no damage. Border was entrenched—England's bowlers know well enough what that means—and Hughes soon worked out what he could do and what it was wiser not to attempt.

Border's hundred was his ninth for Australia and his first against West Indies. After a bad series against Pakistan (84 runs from five innings) his scores against West Indies have been 4, 65, 53 not out, 9, 78 and 126. When, 10 minutes after tea today, he lost concentration and was caught at the wicket chasing the wide ball from Roberts, he had batted for five hours and a half.

For the last hour and three quarters Marsh batted with great restraint: he took no chances and gave none. It was as useful a Test innings as he has played for a long time. After starting the day with every chance of having won by this evening, West Indies looked pretty well done in when it ended. In the closing minutes Richards tried to topple Hughes by tossing the ball high into the air—as a tennis player resorts to the lob; but Hughes limped in undefeated.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings, 238 (A R Border 78, G S Chappell 61; M A Holding 5 for 72, A M E Roberts 4 for 43)

Second Innings

G M Wood, c and b Holding	6
B M Laird, c Dujon, b Croft	78
J Dyson, c Lloyd, b Garner	10
A R Border, c Dujon, b Roberts	126
K J Hughes, not out	72
R W Marsh, not out	22
Extras (b 7, l-b 10, n-b 10)	27
Total (4 wkts)	341

*G S Chappell, B Yardley, D K Lillee, J R Thomson and L S Pascoe to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—10, 2—35, 3—201, 4—267.

BOWLING (to date): Holding, 17—6—45—1; Roberts, 21—7—52—1; Garner, 26—8—51—1; Croft, 32—4—90—1; Gomes, 14—1—38—0; Richards, 18—3—38—0.

WEST INDIES: First Innings, 389 (H A Gomes 124 not out, C H Lloyd 53, P J Dujon 51).

England on way to World Cup final

Christchurch, Feb 2.—England have only to beat an International XI who have not won in 10 qualifying matches to earn a place in the final of the women's World Cup against Australia. While New Zealand, England's main rivals for a place in the final, were humbling India by eight wickets, England were involved in a exciting tie with Australia, the defending champions.

Avril Starling bowled Russell with the final ball of the match to deny the Australians the run which would have preserved their 100 per cent record in the competition. The Australians were all out for 167 in reply to England's 60-over total of 167 for eight.

The two points England gained keep them two ahead of New Zealand in the table with only one round of matches to be played.

ENGLAND

J Brittin, b Thompson	5
S Goatman, l-b-w, b Martin	25
M Lear, b Thompson	58
J Southgate, b Cornish	45
R Heyhoe-Flint, c Martin, b Tredrea	24
E Bakewell, run out	5
C Hodges, run out	0
J Tedstone, not out	0
H Stother, run out	0
Extras (b 4, l-b 5)	9
Total (8 wkts)	167

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—17, 2—39, 3—122, 4—146, 5—160, 6—167, 7—167, 8—167.

BOWLING: Tredrea, 12—4—30—1; Thompson, 12—3—39—2; Martin, 12—3—18—1; Cornish, 6—0—13—1; Fullston, 5—1—15—0; Hill, 4—1—15—0.

AUSTRALIA

P Verco, l-b-w, b Starling	20
D Alderman, b Tedstone	0
K Read, st S Hodges, b C Hodges	30
S Hill, run out	11
S Tredrea, b Tedstone	37
J Jacobs, run out	43
R Thompson, run out	4
M Cornish, b Starling	10
L Fullston, not out	3
D Martin, l-b-w, b Bakewell	0
T Russell, b Starling	0
Extras (b 1, l-b 6, w 2)	9
Total	167

BOWLING: Tedstone, 12—0—23—2; Starling, 12—1—20—3; Hodges, 12—0—40—1; Stother, 12—3—40—0, Bakewell, 12—0—35—1.

	P	W	T	L	Pts
Australia	10	9	1	0	38
England	11	6	2	3	28
New Zealand	11	6	1	4	26
India	10	3	0	7	12
International XI	10	0	0	10	0

Malik runs blitz

Sydney, Feb 2.—Aamir Malik blitzed the Australian bowling to score 111 not out in 141 minutes and give his team an eight wickets victory in the under-19 youth Test here today. They are now one-up in the series of three Tests.

SCORES: Australia 218 and 205 (C Bradley 90, Ghaffar 5—67). Pakistan 185 and 241-2 (Aamir Malik 111 no, Saleem Malik 81 no).

Tennis

DENVER: First round: R Gottfried (USA) beat P Rennert (USA), 6—7, 6—4, 6—1; W Fibak (Poland) beat T Tulasne (France), 7—6, 6—1; F Buehning (USA) beat T Gullikson (USA), 6—1, 6—4; B Manson (USA) beat S Krulevitz (USA), 6—1, 6—7, 6—0.

Captain has brought best out of Botham

From Richard Streeton
Kanpur, Feb 2

Keith Fletcher and Ian Botham spent today's rest day in the sixth Test with India here shooting wild geese from adjoining punts on a tributory of the Ganges. It emphasized the rapport that has built up between the two players and which has been reflected in Botham's consistently reliable performances on this tour.

There was much speculation before the tour about whether Fletcher would be able to inspire the same sort of brilliance from Botham that Brearley did last summer against Australia. In the current Test, Botham has underlined once again, not for the first time in recent weeks, that he can bring a more disciplined approach to his batting if England need it.

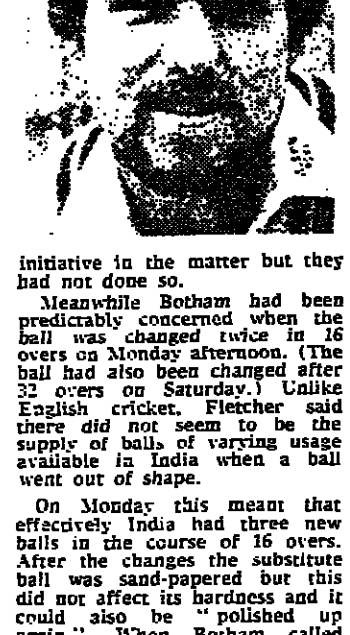
For all his superb skills and many triumphs in the past it is something that has not always marked his cricket either with Somerset or England. It is a development which reflects great credit on Fletcher and his relationship with the man who a year ago was England captain himself. Fletcher modestly will say no more than he has a good relationship with Botham and has had "several chats with him".

Fletcher said today that he felt Botham's batting has "improved and improved, innings by innings". He thought that Botham's promotion to No 5 in the order had been a factor in the player's response. Indeed, in the long term, if his bowling ever deserted him, it was feasible he could bat at No 4.

That lies in the future. With two days left of a rain-disrupted match that England need to win to level the series, India resume at 12 for one in reply to England's first innings of 378 for nine declared. Fletcher saw the pace and swing of Willis and Botham as being England's main chance of gaining an unlikely win, with Underwood, too, possibly having a part to play. He thought the pitch's occasional low bounce would help Underwood more than Emburey. "We have got to have a lot of luck to be honest to win. Perhaps get them to follow on or close to that; smack a few runs in the second innings and get them in again. Our best chance lies if it seams and keeps low".

Fletcher said he believed that legislation might be needed to deal with the ball-changing problem which arose so regularly in Indian cricket. Nothing more had come of the possibility of switching in this series from Indian manufactured balls to English ones, something which both he and Gavaskar, the Indian captain, had said they favoured some weeks ago. England had felt that India should take the initiative in the matter but they had not done so.

Fletcher (above) has praise for the contribution of Gatting (below).



Meanwhile Botham had been predictably concerned when the ball was changed twice in 16 overs on Monday afternoon. (The ball had also been changed after 32 overs on Saturday.) Unlike English cricket, Fletcher said there did not seem to be the supply of balls of varying usage available in India when a ball went out of shape.

On Monday this meant that effectively India had three new balls in the course of 16 overs. After the changes the substitute ball was sand-papered but this did not affect its hardness and it could also be "polished up again". When Botham called Fletcher onto the field during the second stoppage Botham had complained about the problem. Fletcher told him that there was nothing that could be done immediately

ENGLAND: 378 for nine dec (I T Botham 142, D I Gower 85, G A Gooch 58, D R Doshi 4—81).

Tennis

Why the ATP have decided to pull out

Dallas, Feb 2—The Association of Tennis Professionals will withdraw their three representatives from the men's international professional council at the end of the year. ATP executive director Buchholz said yesterday the decision was made so that his organization would be "in a position of neutrality in the tennis world". He added that it would give ATP the opportunity to support all professional tennis tournaments.

Although Buchholz made no reference to the current clash between promoters of the Grand Prix tour and world championship tennis, it could have a bearing on the ATP decision.

The nine-member council, which conducts the Grand Prix circuit, is composed of three international tennis federation representatives, three tournament directors, and three player representatives. The current player representatives appointed by the ATP are Buchholz, Arthur Ashe and Ray Moore, of South Africa.

"We have enjoyed our relationship with the Volvo Grand Prix and appreciate the opportunity we have had to serve on the council", Buchholz said in a statement. "The Volvo Grand Prix is extremely important for the players and by taking this position, we will be able to help steer tennis through the problems that have been created by a fragmented game.

"The code of conduct is of prime importance to the players, as we plan for the rules to be fairly and uniformly administered by the ATP", Buchholz said.

There was no elaboration by Buchholz on the last point, but the council's code of conduct governs the behaviour of players during matches, and has been brought into force recently when the council levied fines and suspensions against several prominent players, including world number one John McEnroe and fellow American Vitas Gerulaitis.

The code of conduct only applies to players participating in Grand Prix tournaments, the council has no jurisdiction over WCT tournaments.—Reuter.

DETROIT: First round: D Pronholz (Australia) beat S Collins (US), 6—4, 6—1; V Pavel (Romania) beat C Coles (GB), 6—4, 6—1; Y Vermaak (SA) beat A Leand (US) 4—6, 7—6, 7—6; J Russell (US) beat D Bei (US) 4—6, 6—2, 6—0.

Golf

A watching situation for Mrs de Prado

By Lewine Mair

Among entries for the Avia Watches foursomes championship, which is to be staged at the Berkshire Golf Club from March 16 to 18, is Catherine de Prado, the French amateur player, who, in 1967, defeated the world's leading women professionals to win the United States open championship.

Mrs de Prado, who has as her partner the Spanish international, Vicky Pertierra, moved to Madrid after her marriage and is now a mother of four. She practises and plays at La Moraleja, on the outskirts of the city.

Mrs de Prado, daughter of the former Wimbledon champion, Rene Lacoste, and her partner will be playing their first two rounds alongside Belle Robertson and Winnie Wooldridge, the former Wightman Cup tennis player.

Mrs Robertson and Mrs Wooldridge are the holders of the Avia title, and have individual records over the past 12 months to suggest that they are in a strong position to retain it. Mrs Robertson took the British women's match-play title and was runner-up to Debbie Massey, of the United States, in the British Open for a second successive year.

Mrs Wooldridge reduced her handicap to scratch and generally competed well enough to have many among the teams of England, Ireland and Wales breathing sighs of relief when they learned how Scotland had again failed to select her for the home internationals.

Except in 1972, when the foursomes were played in sunshine, competitors in the Avia have played in weather almost on a par with the Arctic conditions prevailing at the President's Putter at Rye in January.

On this occasion, however, the golfers, should warm up sooner than usual, thanks to the Twinlock Company, who have presented each player with an outfit to beat the cold.

Gleneagles longer

The King's course at Gleneagles Hotel is to be lengthened from its present 6,500 yards in an attempt to attract big tournaments again, Lewine Mair writes. The last important event held there was the Double Diamond International in 1977.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

This table is published on Wednesday and Saturday

1981/82 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Football

Liverpool rebuilding means the demolition of Ipswich

By Norman Fox
Ipswich 0 Liverpool 2

Suddenly, this could be a very good year for Liverpool and another of frustration for the First Division favourites, Ipswich Town. Liverpool's totally convincing victory in the Football League Cup semi-final first leg at Portman Road last night was a tribute to their resilience and rapid rebuilding.

In a three-minute period immediately after half-time, they overwhelmed Ipswich's thoughts of reaching the final. They have not lost away from home since being beaten 2—0 on this same ground on September 12. Last night they were in no danger of repeating their errors, and Ipswich finished with further worries over a weakened defence.

Possibly without Osman, who had eight stitches in a knee wound after the game, and certainly without Butcher, Ipswich must now visit Liverpool twice in the coming week with their confidence in retreat. Their league game at Anfield on Saturday could be the most significant of their season.

Liverpool were on the crest of a revival; Ipswich were trying not to believe that another season could be marred by injuries, nor thinking too deeply about a sobering home defeat by Notts County, last Saturday. Neither was this a time to dwell on football's ills which seemed far away as a packed house warmed to a powerful, vital tie which quickly fulfilled its potential.

Steggles, replacing the injured Butcher in the centre of the Ipswich defence, had the heavy responsibility of keeping the skilful Liverpool from partnership in check and it was his alertness Ipswich could thank for frustrating Liverpool during prolonged periods of pressure.

Cooper also had to be at his nimble best to flick over the bar Dalglish's cunning low shot from the right wing and Kennedy's thrust from only a yard.

Having promised to find a passageway through the Ipswich defence so often in the first half, it took Liverpool only five minutes in the second to do it twice. Their first was simplicity itself; their second simple improvisation.

Rush had often threatened to sink Osman with his speed in turning and did so spectacularly in the 47th minute. Moving into the penalty area, he left Osman in a state of giddy confusion before shooting. Cooper turned the ball away only as far as McDermott, who strolled up and pushed in the easiest of goals.

Three minutes later Lee, working like a piston in the engine of the Liverpool team, lifted the ball over an advancing defence for Rush to run on and lob a shot over Cooper.

Soon after conceding the goals, Ipswich's troubles were compounded when Osman had to leave the field with a cut knee. Wark dropped back into the centre of the defence. Not that this detracted from the quality of Liverpool's achievement. Once ahead they imposed themselves on the game to such an extent that Ipswich appeared to be a shadow.

IPSWICH TOWN: P Cooper; G Burley, S McCall, M Mills, R Osman (sub F Thyssen), K Steggles, J Wark, A Muhren, P Mariner, A Brazil, E Gates.
LIVERPOOL: B Grobbelaar; P Neal, M Lawrenson, A Kennedy, R Whelan, A Hansen, K Dalglish, S Lee, I Rush, T McDermott, G Souness.
Referee: B Stevens (Stonehouse).

The pack of Wolves cannot stop Rix getting the shot in for Arsenal.

Three goals relieve tedium

By Nicholas Harling
Arsenal 2 Wolves 1

Those who came to Highbury last night expecting another night of stupefying tedium must have been agreeably surprised. For there was the rarity of three goals, the most seen in a First Division game on the ground this season.

Fortunately for those who patronize the north London club Arsenal scored two of them, which also represents their highest total at home. Unfortunately for those responsible for the club's finances, the game was watched by only 15,163, the lowest crowd since Wolves were also the visitors for a midweek afternoon game during the miners' strike in 1974.

Sad also must have been Ian Greaves who, having tendered his resignation as Oxford United's manager earlier in the day, watched the game from the directors' box.

Mr Greaves had seen Wolves live dangerously for most of the first half, Rix squandering Arsenal's first chance as early as the second minute. Bradshaw blocked that shot with his legs but left it to his fellow defenders to clear subsequent efforts from Talbot, Nicholas and Davis.

The two most cultured left feet on view combined to put Arsenal ahead in the 65th minute. Davis from well inside his own half sent Rix away and he cut in to score with a splendid 25-yard drive. Wood left space by his near post for Hibbitt to exploit and equalised from Gray's pass five minutes later, only for Vaessen, from a square ball by Rix, to swerve in the 80th minute decider, his second winning goal in four days.

ARSENAL: G Wood; J Hollins, K Sansom, B Talbot, D O'Leary, C Whyte, P Vaessen, A Sunderland (sub, J Hawley), P Davis, P Nicholas, G Rix.
WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS: P Bradshaw; G Palmer, J Humphrey, H Atkinson, J Gallagher, G Berry, K Hibbitt, M Eves (sub, R Villazan), A Gray, J Richards, C Brazier.
Referee: G Napthine (Leicestershire).

Greaves dispute: Oxford United and Wolverhampton Wanderers were last night involved in a dispute over Ian Greaves, Exchange Telegraph reports. Robert Maxwell, the chairman of Oxford, told a board meeting last night that Greaves had agreed to take over as Wolverhampton's manager last week. Mr Maxwell had refused to accept his resignation and appealed to Harry Marshall, the Wolverhampton chairman, to uphold the gentleman's agreement between club chairmen that managers would not be "poached" during a playing season.

Villa's foundations shake

Aston Villa 1 Sunderland 0

Aston Villa, having briefly raised Midlands football above the mediocre last season by winning the League championship, find themselves struggling with the rest at the wrong end of the first division table.

The often exhilarating tide of one-touch football which had swept them to the title seems to have turned, leaving them stranded with the no-hopers. The main reason for such a dramatic decline may lie in the fact that opposing teams have come to terms with their style.

Sunderland must regard the first division as something of a mountain, so regularly are they to be found in the foothills. But they have learnt the art of survival the hard way, rugged determination often compensating for lack of ability.

Their cause was hardly helped when the promising young Pickering was taken off on a stretcher with a leg injury after a bloodcurdling encounter in the penalty area with Rimmer.

Yet they contained Villa through full-blooded challenges and a solid defensive approach. Geddis broke the deadlock and the monotony when he volleyed home Withe's knockdown. Thereafter the game turned ugly as feet flew into every tackle, Hindmarch, Ritchie and Ormsby being booked.

ASTON VILLA: J Rimmer; K Swain, C Gibson (sub, T Bullivant), A Blair, B Ormsby, D Mortimer, D Bremner, D Geddis, P Withe, G Cowans, G Shelton.
SUNDERLAND: B Siddall; B Venison, J Hinnigan, R Hindmarch, J Clarke, S Elliott, T Ritchie, G Chisholm, J Cooke, N Pickering, A Brown.
Referee: B Martin (Nottingham).

Bond raises City's hopes and Bonds dashes them

By Peter Bills
West Ham 1 Manchester C 1

Manchester City's aspirations of another view from the summit of English football, were foiled at Upton Park last night. Victory would have continued the entertaining game of musical chairs at the top of the first division.

So Southampton maintain their narrow advantage and with four of their next six matches at the Dell, Lawrie McMenemy's expressive side have the chance to consolidate their lead over football's elite.

Yet late in last night's match before 25,600 chilled customers City seemed to have done enough to rise to the top. A penalty by Kevin Bond—the family name very mch a part of Western folklore in the late '50s and early '60s—put City ahead with just 18 minutes remaining. Orr's tackle, clumsy more than malicious sent Francis tumbling in the area and Bond beat Parkes.

But if City, who had looked the more articulate of the two sides in the first-half cherished *hopes of the leadership*, they were to be dashed within a mere seven minutes by the inspiration of West Ham's Bonds.

But it was entirely appropriate that when Goddard stumbled over the ball in a goalmouth skirmish 11 mins from the end, Bonds should be there to lash the ball past Corrigan with the venom and fury he had shown throughout the match.

There is a new cutting edge to West Ham's play. Last night for example the Londoners found City's intelligent play more creative than their own, for much of the first hour. Yet West Ham stuck bravely to their task, weakened as they were, by Devonshire's absence.

West Ham rely heavily on the qualities Bonds has made famous during more than a decade at Upton Park. Now moved out to the right of midfield to accommodate young Orr alongside Martin at the back, Bonds found time to compete, create, defend, and attack.

After the interval the game settled to a more predictable pattern. Corrigan made the best save of the game just after an hour, alertly turning aside Cross's volley, inevitably from a cross supplied by the irrepressible Bonds, whose retaliation after Manchester's goal was both immediate and decisive.

WEST HAM: P Parkes; R Stewart, A Martin, N Orr, P Brush (sub, S Pearson); G Pike, T Brooking, W Bonds; P Goddard, D Cross, F Van der Elst.
MANCHESTER CITY: J Corrigan; R Ranson, K Bond, T Caton, R McDonald; J Ryan (sub, A Harolds), A Hartford, S Kinsey, P Power; K Reeves, T Francis.
Referee: A Gunn (Sussex).

Rugby Union

Smith relishes the challenge of the England captaincy

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

The gregarious, irrepressibly buoyant Steve Smith confesses to mild surprise at having been asked to take over from Bill Beaumont as England's captain against Ireland at Twickenham on Saturday but leaves no one in doubt that he relishes the challenge.

"The best two captains I ever played with", he says, "have been Fran Cotton and Billy Beaumont and I think that Billy learnt a lot from Fran, who has a great tactical awareness. Fran's team talks are superb. When he gives them as our coach at Sale we go out on to the field knowing exactly what's wanted. The three of us have been good mates for a long time and you can be sure that I'll be having a word with both of them before Saturday comes round".

All Smith's big games since 1979—for England, Lancashire and the North—have been played under Beaumont's captaincy. But it was Cotton who inspired him to return to the international arena after five years, 1975 to 1979, when he won only two caps in his own right and two more as a replacement, for Jan Webster and Malcolm Young.

Before that Smith had won his first cap against Ireland in 1973

Smith: taking everything in.

and five more at a time when the selectors seemed unable to make up their mind whether he or Webster (Moseley) should be the England scrum half. When subsequently they chose "Jacko" Page (Northampton), Peter Kingston (Gloucester)—in Australia in 1975—and Mike Lampowski Headingley(a year later, Smith had become disenchanted enough with the national scene to concentrate on enjoying his club and county rugby, to put on a lot of weight and to need the game to be played at his own pace.

He recalls that Cotton, after an injury, needed a training partner, "and I was the mug he picked on. I really think Fran enjoys pain". But the pain enabled Smith to shed two stones and it motivated him to set his sights on touring South Africa with North West Counties and playing for the North against the All Blacks in 1979.

He was recalled by England for the international against New Zealand, when Les Cusworth won his only cap. He played throughout the grand slam season of 1980, and has never looked back. John Horton was his regular partner in 1980 and for the first championship game of 1981. Huw Davies has played in the last seven England matches at stand-off.

As regular occupant of the scrum-half position, Smith is grateful to the present selectors for giving players an extensive run for their money and allowing them to redeem themselves.

He is not captain of Sale, as I reported yesterday—the result of an error in transmission—but he led his club some seasons ago. He even captained Cheshire in his Loughborough College days in his first match for the county

Wheeler is the latest England casualty

Already deprived of their captain Bill Beaumont, for the international against Ireland at Twickenham on Saturday, England may now have to make do without their British Lions hooker, Peter Wheeler. He aggravated a long-standing back injury when a scrummage collapsed during a national squad training at Stourbridge on Monday evening, *Peter West writes*.

Wheeler, who has played 30 times for his country, saw a specialist in London yesterday and gave himself no more than a 50-50 chance of playing. He is due to assemble with the team and reserves for further preparation at St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill tomorrow. If he is unfit, then the reserve hooker, Andy Simpson (Sale) is the obvious replacement. Simpson was on the England tour of Argentina last summer, but has yet to win a cap.

Last night's rugby

RUGBY UNION: Exeter 21, Exeter University 9; Dallas Academy 6, Fettes 62.
RUGBY LEAGUE: State Express Cup: Preliminary round: Hull Kingston Rovers 23, Featherstone Rovers 18.

Star role for bit players

By Peter Marson
St Thomas's 15 St Bart's 10

This was a considerable triumph for St Thomas's Hospital who, unlike their opponents, have had to be content with a walking on part with few lines to speak in the Hospitals Cup competition over the last 10 years. Their victory in the second round of the competition at Honor Oak Park yesterday came as a surprise, though it must be said that they were undoubtedly the better side and deserved to win by a dropped goal and four penalty goals to a try and two penalty goals.

Having come back from an impossible position to beat King's College Hospital in a replayed first round match, St Thomas's now move on to the semi-final round on Rosslyn Park's ground at Roehampton on February 17 when they take on the holders, St Mary's.

St Bartholomew's dominance over the last decade, then, is at an end, but it has been a distinguished chapter with nine successive appearances in the semi-final round crowned with victories in 1976 and 1977.

St Thomas's victory was born of a marked superiority forward, and, when the opportunity came his way, Murphy's ability to kick penalty goals.

Murphy's admirable left-footed kicking had given his side an important lead of 12 points to three at the end of the first quarter of an hour. Thereafter, there were perhaps a couple of brief moments in the second half when St Bartholomew's threatened

Balding landed two penalty goals, and Dunn scored a try for St Bartholomew's but Murphy made the game safe in the second half with his fourth penalty goal.

ST THOMAS'S HOSPITAL: J Waldron; S Morris, D Newington, I Nugent, P Hughes; P Murphy, C Hussell; A Scott, M Sibbering, D Roberts; A Moody, capt; J Gibbs, G O'Sullivan, D Wood; S Macklin.
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S: J Balding; J Blake, B Hardwicke, N Craig, S Middleton; M Thomas, capt; K Thomas; P Pracy, D Thomson, W Jasper; G Veal, A Fitzpatrick, J Goodfellow, N Garlic; A Dunn.
Referee: P Fitzgibbon (London).

Scottish Quin

Bill Cuthbertson, the Scottish international lock, makes his second appearance for Harlequins when they meet Metropolitan Police in a London merit match at Imber Court on Sunday. Cuthbertson is joined by his former Kilmarnock teammate Hugh McHardy, a Scotland B scrum half.

Rotherham overcome great odds

Rotherham United's new signing, Gerry Gow, was sent off after two minutes of their second division match against Derby County at Millmoor last night, but although they were a goal down at half-time and missed a penalty they eventually won 2—1. Gow was dismissed for a foul on Emery after being booked seconds earlier for a similar infringement against Powell. Emery was taken to hospital with a suspected broken leg.

Derby looked the more dangerous side and Hill put them ahead with a neat goal after 39 minutes. Banovic saved Moore's penalty kick after the interval but he could only stand and watch when the substitute, Richards, turned a shot by Gooding into his own net. The goal gave Rotherham, who are struggling near the bottom of the table, fresh heart and Moore made up for his earlier miss by heading home the winner 15 minutes from time.

Barnsley kept up their challenge for promotion by winning 2—0 at Shrewsbury with second-half goals from Walker and Banks.

Chesterfield, who won 3—1 against Doncaster Rovers, went back to the top of the third division. Bennyman, Henderson and an own goal from Parkinson gave Chesterfield a comfortable lead and Doncaster could only reply two minutes from time through Snodin. Carlisle maintained their push for promotion with a 1—0 win at home to Preston

Last night's football

League Cup
Semi-final first leg
Ipswich (0) 0 — Liverpool (0) 2
26,590 — McDermott, Rush

First division
Arsenal (0) 2 — Wolves (0) 1
Rix, Vaessen — Hibbitt 15,163
Aston Villa (0) 1 — Sunderland (0) 0
Geddis — 19,916
West Ham (0) 1 — Man City (0) 1
Bonds — Bond (pen) 26,552

Second division
Rotherham (0) 2 — Derby (1) 1
Richards (og), Moore — Hill 7,487
Shrewsbury (0) 0 — Barnsley (0) 2
4,582 — Walker, Banks

Third division
Burnley (0) 1 — Gillingham (0) 0
Wharton — 5,845
Carlisle (1) 1 — Preston (0) 0
Houghton — 5,044
Chesterfield (2) 3 — Doncaster (0) 1
Bennyman, Henderson, Parkinson og — Snodin 6,137

Fourth division
Bournemouth (0) 0 — Bradford (1) 2
5,084 — McNiven, Gallagher
Northmptn (0) 3 — Port Vale (4) 5
Alexander, Phillips, Saxby 1,644 — Hunter 2, Sproson, M Chamberlain, Greenhoff
Scunthorpe (0) 1 — Mansfield (0) 0
1,713 — 2,099
York (0) 0 — Dell
Bury (0) 0

Scottish Premier division
Celtic (0) 0 — Hibernian (0) 0
16,700

Scottish first division
Queen's Pk (1) 1 — Queen of S (0) 1
Crawley (pen) — Cloy (pen)

Scottish second division
Alloa (0) 1 — East Fife (1) 2
Holt — O'Brien, Scott

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Runcorn 1, Frickley 0; Cup, Third round, second leg: Enfield 2, Dagenham 1 (agg 4-2).
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Midlands: Banbury 1, Barry 3; Stourbridge 1, Taunton 3. South: Hounslow 1, Dunstable 2; Hillingdon 0, Fareham 0; Tonbridge 4, Addlestone and Weybridge 2. Cup: Fourth round replay: Witney 0, Gloucester 2.
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Bristol Rovers 2, Queen's Park Rangers 1.
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Macclesfield 3, Oswestry 2; Workington 1, Netherfield 0.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Sevenoaks 3, Westminster 1. Under-19 championships: Inner London 5, Surrey 3.
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Bromley 1, Croydon 2; Harlow Town 1, Boreham Wood 0; Wycombe Wanderers 2, Hayes 0. First division: Chesham United 0, Oxford City 3; Epsom and Ewell 1, Farnborough Town 2; Hampton 4, Feltham 3; Tilbury 1, Aveley 3; Wokingham Town 2, Maidenhead United 0. Second division: Basildon United 3, Eastbourne United 0, Corinthian Casuals 2, Windsor and Eton 2; Dorking Town 1, Horsham 1; Egham Town 3, Hemel Hempstead 0; Hungerford Town 4, Tring Town 0. Cup, third round: Bishop's Stortford 0, Carshalton Athletic 2; Wembley 3, Southall 0. Fourth round: Kingstonian 1, Worthing 0 (a.e.t.).
BERKS AND BUCKS SENIOR CUP: Third round, Slough Town 2, Aylesbury United 0.
HERTS SENIOR CUP: Third round: Hertford Town 2, Barnet 1 (a.e.t.).
MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP: Second round replay: Hendon 4, Staines 0.

Death of Bristol City may give hope to those still ailing

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

The Football League may today be reduced to 91 clubs for the first time for 20 years. Yet the sad death of one may give birth to a brighter future for all if the chairmen at last recognise the dangers of perpetuating the myth that the strongest league must necessarily be the biggest.

At their meeting in Solihull on February 21 and 22 the chairmen ought to agree to regionalize the third and fourth divisions. *Or is this too much to hope. It* may be a step backwards to the system used before 1959 but it would be a step forward in the right direction, particularly if the players involved became part-timers

At high noon today the eight professionals who have been told to leave Bristol City will hold a players' meeting and then announce their decision. If they refuse to go, Bristol will become the first club to fold in the middle of a season since Accrington Stanley did so on March 6, 1962; and Ashton Gate will be put up for sale.

It has happened before—at Accrington, and the buyers were the Lancashire Education Council. The club was disbanded but re-formed six years later and joined the Lancashire Combination where they grew so disenchanted with their success over the next decade that they applied for, and were accepted into, the stronger second division of the Cheshire County League.

In their second season there Accrington finished runners-up but were refused promotion because of the state of their new ground, "a mud heap" known as the Crown. Drainage was installed and the side went up to the first division last year as champions on goal-difference from Glossop.

Accrington's part-time players receive an average weekly wage of £20 but the majority are amateurs who are merely reimbursed for expenses for travelling to the Saturday matches as well as two training sessions a week. For them, though, non-League life is more enjoyable than the struggle in the fourth division.

Barry Knowles, of Barrow, who failed to gain re-election in 1972, has similar thoughts. After he had helped his side reach ninth place in the Alliance Premier League last season, his local team, Wigan Athletic, of the fourth division, made him an offer. He refused. He may yet accept the terms of Shrewsbury Town but they are in the second division of the Football League.

Barrow, who still own their own ground, pay their part timers about £40 a week including bonuses and their overdraft is described as "small". Once their postponed matches have been staged, they expect to be "on an even keel". Having just played five games in eight days, their main problem concerns the leniency of the players' employers.

Workington Town, who let the League in 1977, can empathise. Now in the Northern Premier League, they have recruited players from Manchester to Newcastle. When their coach travels to away games, they make more bus-stops than their secretary cares to mention. "We seem to pick up someone at every junction of the motorway," he said.

Workington recently acted as hosts of FA Cup ties for Carlisle United and Newcastle United on a ground that is leased from the local council. Their changed board appointed a commercial manager and their finances improved so dramatically that, even though they also pay their staff some £40 a week, they have had to buy players to offset their profit during the past two years.

In contrast, Southport, the latest to be shown the door in 1978, went into liquidation last June. Two businessmen took over, built a new social club and set a target of a year for Southport to become self-supporting. The board, too, have appointed a commercial manager to help raise the £1,000 a week they need to meet their running costs.

"We would welcome the idea of regionalization", Geoff Clarke, their secretary, said. "The Football League is the biggest trade union in the world. It is so difficult to gain entry and yet most of the clubs in the Fourth Division are surviving only on their share of the Football Association's pool at the end of the season."

Darlington followed Halifax Town's example and became the latest to declare that they needed the public's help. With the aid of the local newspaper, they launched an appeal eight days ago. At the end of last year their debts stood at £95,000, an amount which increases by £1,000 each week.

Darlington need £50,000 merely to survive and another £50,000 to maintain adequate staffing levels. The initial response has been favourable and David Thorne, their secretary, is "quietly optimistic" about the future and that the amount will be raised before the deadline, set for the middle of next month.

He added, though, that such an appeal can be launched but once. Wages, as usual, caused the problem and if they cling on until the end of the season, their staff will be pruned to a viable level. Last season was their best for 12 years and they budgeted for an increase in gate receipts.

Instead their crowds have dropped by a dangerous average of 1,700 a week. For Darlington, beware the Ides of March.

Last minute search for benefactor

Bristol City were making last-ditch attempts yesterday to find someone with enough money to stop them going into liquidation. They have approached, among others, Mr Jack Hayward, the millionaire who bought the SS Great Britain back to Bristol and is a well-known sporting benefactor.

Unless the eight players, whose contracts the club are seeking to tear up, accept redundancy by noon today Bristol City will close, and all 30 of its professionals will be sold off to the highest bidder by the Football League.

From this auction £100,000 would be paid to Newcastle United, as the balance of the fee they are owed for Mick Harford, who they sold to City last July.

Graham Kelly, the League secretary, said that the League would not be responsible for players' wages until they find new clubs.

Accountants working for the club have rejected offers of up to £500,000 for the Ashton Gate ground. They say it would not benefit the club to sell at present, as any money would go to preferential shareholders, the bank who are owed £230,000, the taxman (£100,000) and Courage's the brewers (£82,000).

Lional Smart, a former Bristol City director, last night lodged a bid to save the club. Mr Smart, a Somerset farmer and an FA councillor, is trying to arrange a testimonial between Ipswich Town and Southampton to add some £25,000 to a pay-off offer to the eight City players.

An opportunity that Price cannot pass up

Paul Price has been given three matches to establish himself as a Tottenham Horspur regular, starting with tonight's League Cup semi-final first leg against West Bromwich Albion at the Hawthorns. The Welsh international, who has played only 135 minutes since signing from Luton Town last summer, plans to take full advantage of Graham Roberts's double misfortune.

Roberts, the tough-tackling non-league centre back, was ruled out of the tie when he failed a fitness test on his injured ankle. Then, a few hours later, he picked up a two-match suspension, which bars him from the return next week.

□ The former England midfield player, Alan Ball of Southampton, and Neil McNab, of Brighton, are to be reported to the Football Association by Alan Gunn, a referee.

The players were involved in an incident at the end of a five-a-side exhibition game between the clubs at the Brighton centre on Monday night.

□ Colchester have signed Cambridge striker John Lyons, Martin Bennett, Colchester's secretary, said the deal had gone through thanks to the generosity of the London Royal Insurance Company, the club's sponsor.

□ David Giles, the Welsh international, has been loaned by Swansea City to Crystal Palace for a month.

Hongkong, Feb 2.—The former Arsenal striker Charlie George has had his contract cancelled by the leading Hongkong side, Bulova.

Manager not released

Hamburg said yesterday that they would not release their coach, Ernst Happel, to manage Austria's World Cup team in this summer's finals. Austria and West Germany have been drawn in the same qualifying group. According to a report from Paris, Cameroon have dismissed their Yugoslav manager, Branko Zutic.

The wolf at the Gate

I am no soccer buff. But it has been difficult for anyone living near Bristol in the last few months to be unaware of the misfortunes which have befallen the two football clubs. They have never been among the giants of the game (though Bristol City reached the Cup Final in 1909 when Manchester United beat them 1—0 and they reached a semi-final just after the First World War). But Bristol is a place with a long sporting tradition, going back to the prize-ring, in days when it was the second city of the country, and it is sad to see it, at least in this respect, in such a pickle.

I felt the first pang when I heard that Bristol Rovers would no longer be playing at Eastville. Eastville is not a ground of beauty, but it has character. After arguments that have been grumbling for years the club have finally fallen out with the company who own the stadium.

It was announced that next season they would share the Bristol City ground at Ashton Gate, paying rent. Explanations were made that this was only a temporary arrangement and that Rovers intended to build a new stadium or at least have a share in Bristol's vaguely projected grand new super stadium. But this is not a good time to plan grand new super stadia.

Now we have a crisis at Ashton Gate and the possibility that Bristol City may go out of business. I did not take the dire prophecies too seriously—after all they have been made by many clubs often—and I would still suppose that sufficient merchant venturers will be found, undeterred by the loss of many cargoes, to keep some sort of ship afloat. Still, to change the analogy, the shepherd boy who kept crying "wolf" did one day find that there was a real wolf. And if Ashton Gate were to be sold what will poor Rovers do?

Does Bristol need two football clubs? The conventional answer is that competition is good for them both and that the loyal fans would rather go out of business than merge. The nearest outside competition is 40 miles away at Swindon. League clubs in the West of England are few. Neither Bath nor Gloucester has one, nor does Cheltenham. It is true that Bristol is a strong rugby city and several thousand regularly take their football at the Memorial Ground. But it ought to be possible for both City and Rovers to survive, as has been the case for more than 60 years.

I notice a change in public feeling on this point. When the loyal fans said that they would rather go out of business than merge, what they really meant was that they would rather see the *other* club go out of business than merge. More and more thoughtful people now say that they would accept a merger to keep League football. I have a friend who runs the London Inn in Keynsham. He is a devoted City supporter. He keeps a little lamp on his counter, with blue and red screens, and switches it appropriately according to the recent fortunes of the two sides.

He is happy only when the red screen is glowing. (Now that I think of it, I have not seen that lamp for some time. Perhaps he feels that a sombre darkness is more fitting.) But now he is inclined to feel that, though it offers no immediate solution, a merger will be best in the long term and I am sure he speaks for many in both camps.

In the pubs and clubs and other places, such as the groups that gather outside church after Sunday morning service (always a useful place to pick up football talk: the conversations are sober and have had new material to feed on from the prevous day), there is general agreement that mismanagement is to blame for City's troubles. But there the agreement ends. Mismanagement by whom? Mr Kew? Mr Gooch? Mr Dicks? Mr Houghton?

More generally, there are quite a lot of hard words for Jimmy Hill. Older supporters particularly deplore his "freedom of contract," which started the troubles, causing the club to pay first division salaries which could not be sustained when they went down twice running.

Some even say that the game has never been the same since the abolition of the maximum wage. Yet there is little inclination to blame the players (except for not playing well enough). It is recognized that they have to make what they can in a short career. I met one man, a parson whose experience of the game is long, who thought that they lacked loyalty and sacrifice—"but those are two forgotten words in football nowadays".

There has always been a tendency, not just because of geographical position, to think of Ashton Gate as the west end club of the pair. Not that either area is specially salubrious but that is a fate common to most football grounds in the age of the hooligan and his effect on property values. Yet Ashton Gate is undoubtedly a fine stadium and it would be a shame if it did not continue to be, one way or another: a home of football. What that way may be I cannot guess.

Alan Gibson

Ice skating

Britons give Russians the blues

From John Hennessy
Lyons, Feb 2

Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, the ice dance champions of Britain, Europe and the world, made a brilliant start to the second leg of this year's triple crown here tonight. They won both the first two compulsories from their most dangerous challengers, Natalya Bestemianova and Andrei Bukin, in the view of all nine judges except those from the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, who have them only 0.1 and 0.2 marks ahead, respectively.

In spite of a lacklustre performance, Irene Moiseyeva and Andrei Minenkov, twice former winners of the world title, held on to third place but the second British couple, Karen Barber and Nicholas Slater, lie fourth, thereby reversing their position in the world championships last year vis-à-vis the third Russian team, Olga Volozhinskaya and Alexander Svinin. The third British couple, Wendy Sessions and Stephen Williams, are in ninth place as last year.

Today's two exercises could not have been more different in character, the blues all elegant and easy charm, the Yankee Polka an obstacle course of fast footwork and difficult edges which brought two couples crashing to the ice. The British champions were supreme no matter what demands were made on them. There was a lilting softness about their blues which evoked from their trainer, Betty Callaway, lodged there at the ringside, the comment that she had not heard a blade touch the ice. Their marks were approximately 0.1 above those that served their purpose so well last year.

Miss Bestemianova and her partner put on the pressure in the second dance with a spirited display to which the dynamic Russian woman is admirably suited by character. A range of marks between 5.4 and 5.8 offered a distinct threat, but the British couple responded magnificently with an exercise which drew first a volley of sustained applause from the audience and then a series of marks which included two 5.9s, a rare accolade in the compulsory section.

There is still a long way to go with three more marks tomorrow to complete the compulsory section and two more on Friday night for the free skating. It would seem, however, that Miss Torvill and Dean have only to maintain their present form and the gold medal must be theirs again.

Jean-Christophe Simond (France) and Igor Bobrin (Soviet Union) fulfilled last year's reputations and this year's expectations by finishing first and second respectively in the men's compulsory figures. Under the old system of marking Simond would probably already have done enough to win the championship, but these days the best he can do is put 0.6 of a point between himself and his nearest pursuer.

Bobrin is therefore well placed, at least so far as Simond is concerned, to retain the title he won at Innsbruck a year ago, with the Frenchman runner-up. Two West Germans, however, lie menacingly in wait. Heiko Fischer, the new national champion, lies third, and Norbert Schramm, who has advanced three places in the figures, is therefore 1.8 points better off this time.

Fischer has never appeared before at this level and, for all his sudden emergence as a free skater of unusual merit, it would be a remarkable achievement to win the title at his first attempt.

Mark Pepperday, the new British champion, occupies the same humble position as at the same stage last year, nineteenth. He stood two places higher after the second figure but was given disappointing marks in the loops. A small measure of improvement is discernable, an average mark of 2.98, compared with 2.83 a year ago in a longer field, 25 against 21, but this is to clutch at straws.

Pepperday's strength is his free skating and provided his combination jump, double toe salchow to triple toe loop, holds together in the short programme he may still hope to make significant progress. He brought it off beautifully in the British championship, but has not been landing it consistently

MEN'S COMPULSORY FIGURES: 1, J C Simond (France) 0.6 pts; 2, I Bobrin (USSR) 1.2; 3, H Fischer (WG) 1.8; 4, N Schramm (WG) 2.4; 5, V Kotin (USSR) 3.0; 6, G Filipowski (Poland) 3.6. British placing: 19, M Pepperday 11.4.
PAIRS: Short programme: 1, I Vorobieva and I Lisovski (USSR) 0.4 pts; 2, S Bäss and T Thierbach (EG) 0.8; 3, M Pestova and S Leonovich (USSR) 1.2. British placing: 6, S Garland and I Jenkins 2.2.
ICE DANCE: 1, J Torvill and C Dean (GB), 9 placements; 2, N Bestemianova and A Bukin (USSR), 18; 3, I Moiseeva and A Minikov (USSR), 30; 4, K Barber and N Slater (GB), 39; 5, N Herve and P Bechu (France), 49; 6, O Volozhinskaya and A Svinin (USSR), 50; 7, J Berankova and J Bartak (Czechoslovakia), 55; 8, B Goller and P Klisch (WG), 69; 9, W Sessions and S Williams (GB), 78; 10, J Peterfy and C Balinc (Hungary), 86.

Boxing

Moore succeeds to world title

Tokyo, Feb 2.—Davey Moore, of the United States, won the world Boxing Association light-middleweight title when he stopped title-holder Tadashi Mihara, of Japan, in the sixth round here tonight.

A crowd of 7,000 saw Moore, aged 22, take the crown after 53 seconds of the sixth round, having floored the 26-year-old champion for the first time in the fifth round with left and right combination blows.

In the decisive sixth, Moore landed a right to the face to send the champion to the canvas for a mandatory eight count. Mihara, making his first defence of the title, got up but the American floored him twice more before the fight was halted.

Feeney's date with Ferreri

John Feeney challenges Paul Ferreri, an Australian, for the Commonwealth bantamweight title at Sydney Opera House on April 2. Feeney, aged 23, from Hartlepool, has had only one bout since beating Dave Smith for the vacant British title last October after the death of the holder Johnny Owen. He outpointed David Brown of the United States in November

Dispute unresolved: The dispute between Clinton McKenzie, the European and British light welterweight champion, and his manager, George Francis, has been carried over to March 1. A three-hour meeting of British Boxing Board of Control stewards in London last night failed to resolve the complaints each has made against the other. Another hearing has been ordered.

Squash rackets

Crosbie upsets Pakistani

Kuala Lumpur, Feb 2.—Two seeded players, from New Zealand and Pakistan, were knocked out in the third round of the world junior championship here. Singapore's Peter Hill beat Danny McQueen 6—9, 10—8, 0—9, 9—1, 9—6 and a 17 year-old New Zealander Mark Crosbie defeated Umar Hayat, 9—7, 3—9, 10—9, 2—9, 9—4. Christy Willstrop, of England, easily beat Hugh Leabourn of New Zealand, 9—1, 9—0, 9—2.

THIRD ROUND: Sohail Qaiser (Pakistan) beat G Pinnington (Australia) 9—5, 6—9, 9—4, 9—4; C Dittmar (Australia) beat Khadim Hussain (Pakistan) 9—5, 9—3, 9—0; P Hill (Singapore) beat D McQueen (NZ) 6—9, 10—8, 0—9, 9—1, 9—6; T Nancarrow (Australia) beat F Jonsson (Sweden) 9—4, 8—10, 9—2, 9—3; C Willstrop (England) beat H Leabourn (NZ) 9—1, 9—0, 9—2.

Today's fixtures

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated.

LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final, first leg: West Bromwich Albion v Tottenham Hotspur.
SECOND DIVISION: Newcastle v Bolton; Norwich v Sheffield Wednesday.
THIRD DIVISION: Lincoln v Chester; Oxford United v Reading.
FOURTH DIVISION: Hartlepool v Darlington; Hereford v Aldershot.
GROUP CUP: Quarter-final: Peterborough v Wimbledon.
SCOTTISH CUP: Second round replay: Gala Fairydean v Cowdenbeath (2.0); Third round replay: Meadowbank v Clyde.
SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION: Partick v Aberdeen; St Mirren v Dundee United.
SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION: Clydebank v Raith; Dunfermline v Ayr.
SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION: Brechin v Berwick.
ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Weymouth v Trowbridge.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Midland: Wellingborough v Bedford. Cup, fourth round: Dover v Wealdstone.
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Crystal Palace v Hereford (2.15); Reading v Watford.
SURREY SENIOR CUP: First round replay, Sutton United v Metropolitan Police.
FA VASE: Fourth round replay: Molesey v Brockenhurst.
RUGBY UNION: Bath v RAF (7.15); Moseley v Loughborough Standards (7.15); Oxford University v Royal Navy (2.30); Pontypool v Penarth (7.0); Cross Keys v Newport (7.0).
RUGBY LEAGUE: First division: Hull v Wigan.
HOCKEY: Representative matches: Cambridge University v Royal Navy (at Fenner's); Oxford University v RAF (at Oxford); Nat West Bank (South West) v Nat West Bank (London) at Bristol.

Latest European snow reports

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Piste	Conditions Off Piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm) —	°C
Andermatt	180	310	Good	Crust	Good	Fine	-2
Excellent skiing on all slopes							
Arosa	200	240	Good	Powder	Good	—	-5
Powder on good base							
Courmayeur	135	260	Good	Crust	Fair	Cloud	-1
Ice on lower slopes							
Grindelwald	35	140	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	0
Good skiing everywhere							
Klosters	180	250	Good	Heavy	Good	Fine	-4
Powder on north-facing slopes							
La Plagne	185	325	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	-2
Good skiing conditions							
Mürren	110	200	Good	Crust	Good	Fine	-2
Good skiing on pistes							
St Anton	250	490	Good	Powder	Good	Fine	-2
New snow on good base							
Seefeld	150	200	Good	Powder	Good	Fine	-3
Good skiing everywhere							
Tignes	240	310	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	-3
Good skiing on piste							
Val d'Isère	160	240	Good	Fair	Good	Fine	-10
Some powder remaining							
Zermatt	80	160	Good	Varied	Fair	Fine	0
Good skiing on upper slopes							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following tourist board report has been received:

GERMANY

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather — °C
Berchtesgaden	40	150	Old	-9
Garmisch	60	160	Pwdr	-9
Hindelang	100	210	Pwdr	-11
Kleinwalsertal	110	380	Pwdr	-7
Mittenwald	50	60	Old	-3
Oberammergau	60	150	Pwdr	-12
Oberstaufen	120	160	Crust	-3
Oberstdorf	80	250	Pwdr	-9

Skiing

Miss Hess is a little girl far from lost in the giant slalom

From Dudley Doust
Schladming, Austria, Feb 2

The brass band got it right this time. They played God Save the Queen at the awards ceremony a couple of days ago when Erika Hess, a Swiss, won the women's combined gold medal at the Alpine world championships but, suitably scolded, they tootled out the Swiss anthem today when the same little girl won the women's giant slalom.

Miss Hess, 19, is eight-stone, five feet four inches tall and petite. "The difference between her and most other girl skiers", said Marie Teresa Nadig, a former Olympic downhill and giant slalom gold medallist from Switzerland, "is that she skis with elegance". By this Miss Nadig means her compatriot skis lightly and effortlessly, lifting and swinging with rhythm, rather than edging and attacking by turns.

Miss Hess was in a happy frame of mind by race time. She already had won one gold, she said, and her nerves were calm. Further, the weather was gloriously crisp and clear — minus 11C, with the snow squeaky underfoot — and all the course was to her liking. It was teep and fast, with many of the 53 gates set in tight, challenging sequences. It was a little nearer to a slalom than the customary, more open slalom tracks she sees on the circuit.

She was confident. So was her fan club, stationed part way up the mountain with their cowbells, drums, horns, national flags and a banner from her home town. So was Miss Nadig, at the finish line. "All Erika has to worry about," she said, laughing and chatting in front of the television cameras, "are the journalists after the race."

Miss Hess knew her first run target when the American Tamara McKinney finished in 1:21.50 secs. The Swiss girl, gaining grace as she went, thereafter re-established the target of 1:20.33, a substantial lead which was to be challenged only by her cousin and compatriot, Monika Hess, who slipped into second place with 1:20.77.

With the second run still an hour away, the Hess fan club went to lunch, marching noisily through town with banners flapping high. The Hess girls sat calmly at the bottom of the mountain, joking with their coaches and watching the second course being set. It had a similar look to it, with 47 gates.

Her view of the second run was just as it had been before the second slalom run on Sunday in the combined event. "I skied well enough in the first run", she said later, "so I decided not to take too many risks in the second". She was last to go, preceded by her cousin, who went off the course near the intermediary stage.

Miss Hess's noisy fan club could have had no notion of how well she was doing, for their din obscured all reports over the public address system. If you stood with the club, however, you could see the result: a little girl far down there, swishing to a stop and tossing her hands and poles high in triumph.

The British girls' results are best buried in small print. Their effect on Fraser Clyde, the team's Alpine director, was clear. "I was very disappointed. I had told them to go all out," he said after the first run and had no reason, he added later, to revise his judgement after the second. "The conditions were ideal and they gave a lifeless performance.

"They've got one of the best coaches in the world, Eric Sturm, who coached champion Austrian girls. They've got money. They've got facilities. What they haven't shown me, however, is heart, commitment, progress and hard work. For a long time the British attitude has been: 'We're here, jolly good show, we're in the team.'" The fire flashed visibly through Clyde's sunglasses. "I can tell you, there are lots of other kids who are waiting to get into the team."

He intimated that the girls would be sent home (all live in Scotland) after the championships.

RESULTS: 1, E Hess (Switzerland), 2min 37.17 sec; 2, C Cooper (US), 2:37.95; 3, U Konzett (Liechenstein), 2:38.03; 4, P Wenzel (Liechenstein), 2:38.05; 5, F Serrat (France), 2:38.49; 6, T McKinney (US), 2:38.77; 7, D Zini (Italy), 2:39.31; 8, E Kirchler (Austria), 2:39.63; 9, C Kinshofer (WG), 2:39.73; 10, R Steiner (Austria), 2:39.85. British: 36, L Beck, 2:51.75; 38, F Blyth, 2:55.10; 41, C Booth, 3:01.02. Fell on first run: M Langmuir.

Faces to follow: three swimmers in the wake of exalted but erstwhile Olympians

Out to show world a clean pair of soles

Will they have us goggle-eyed in wonder? Miss Brownsdon, Moorhouse and Miss Croft.

The year immediately after an Olympic Games is always difficult for competitive swimmers. The unique lure of Olympic fame has usually resulted in a host of record-breaking performances and in their wake many retirements among the established stars. Having given their all for the ideals of Baron de Coubertin, they find the prospect of another four years of monastic dedication unpalatable.

Britain suffered more in this respect last year than most other countries. Duncan Goodhew, our Olympic gold medal winner over 100 metres breaststroke, Sharron Davies, the silver medal winner in the individual medley, and Margaret Kelly, who has been in the forefront of international breaststrokers for five years, all decided to opt out after serving two highly commendable terms on Olympic duty.

Their loss had seemed certain to undermine our national squad for two or three years; but on the threshold of 1982 we have three admirable young replacements in the breaststroker Susannah Brownsdon, aged 15, from Tunbridge Wells; the freestyler June Croft, aged 18, from Wigan; and the breaststroker Adrian Moorhouse, aged 17, from Leeds Central. All earned their international spurs in 1981 and seem certain to consolidate their reputations this year.

Moorhouse, a superbly built six-footer from Bingley in Yorkshire, first displayed a special talent on his international debut a year ago. As a comparative unknown representing England at the Speedomeet in Amersfoort (where he and Miss Croft were most successful last weekend), he astonished everyone by defeating two world-ranked Russians, including the Olympic 200 metres champion, Zhulpa. His winning time (65.12 sec) improved on his previous best for the 100 metres breaststroke by some two seconds and earned him a ranking in the world's top 10.

Since then he has consistently restated his right to be considered without extravagance as a possible emulator of our previous gold medallists David Wilkie and Goodhew.

He has been invited to train in the United States and the Soviet Union, which neither of his illustrious compatriots achieved. He accepted the offer to visit Moscow for two weeks in October but the American offers are, of course, long-term athletic scholarships to leading universities.

Moorhouse and his brilliant part-time coach, Terry Denison, consulted Goodhew on this question and have been advised against moving from Britain. Moorhouse will be challenging for medals at the world championships in Equador in August and at the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in October and this would preclude his joining the American collegiate system before the beginning of 1983. He would then be faced with the Olympic Games in 1984 immediately after a usually unsettling introductory year of American competition.

"Right now my 1982 targets are all that I am thinking about," Moorhouse says. "But it strikes me that if Coe could do it from Sheffield, I'd like to try from Bingley."

Suki Brownson ("I hate Susannah") is, in spite of her youth, scarcely a new face: as a prococious 13-year-old she finished sixth in the Olympic 100 metres breaststroke in Moscow.

Since then her unconventional breaststroke technique with its high, almost dislocatory shoulder action, has driven her locomotive-fashion to a silver medal at the European championships and no fewer than four Commonwealth records.

Miss Brownsdon's training methods under her coach, Mick Geer, are also unconventional in that her workload is comparatively light but extremely varied.

Her potential is enormous, and I feel she could become a world-class medley swimmer, provided that the essential increase in training loads does not blunt her enthusiasm. On current evidence she will be one of the front runners in breaststroke at Guayaquil and Brisbane.

It is particularly satisfying to be able to examine June Croft's prospects with justifiable optimism, for her slim, almost frail physique has been a pillar of strength in the national squad for nearly two years.

Miss Croft had an outstanding weekend in Amersfourt with two gold and two silver medals in the four freestyle events, including a new Commonwealth record at 200 metres (2min 00.49sec) and equalling the Commonwealth record at 100 metres (at 56.60 sec). In the last three weeks she has set seven new national freestyle records and four Commonwealth records. All three will be meeting many of the world's best swimmers at the Arena meeting in Paris this weekend.

Athole Still

Racing

Bregawn on course for Kempton

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Michael Dickinson, who is the leading trainer this season as far as prizemoney won is concerned, will be trying to land another big catch at Kempton Park on Saturday. He saddles either Bregawn or Political Pop for the Freshfields Holidays Handicap Steeplechase.

This race has been a pointer to Cheltenham in the past and is normally run at Sandown Park. It has been transferred to Kempton only because Sandown is still undergoing alterations to the track.

Originally it was Dickinson's intention to rely upon Political Pop, who was runner-up to Diamond Edge in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury at the end of November. But Bregawn's fine recent form — he has won valuable steeplechases at Haydock Park and Doncaster on successive Saturdays — has prompted Dickinson to have a change of heart. Bregawn escaped being penalized at Kempton for those successes because there is no penalty clause attached to the race's conditions. So with only 10st 2lb he will have far less on his back on Saturday than in a similar race in the immediate future.

"If everything goes according to plan Bregawn will be my representative at Kempton and Political Pop will run instead in the Selby Handicap Steeplechase at Weatherby", Dickinson said yesterday. Only if Bregawn fails to please his trainer in the meantime will Political Pop be re-routed south.

Night Nurse, who is now the ante-post favourite in the topsy-turvey betting on this year's Cheltenham Gold Cup; Lesley Ann and Border Incident were other interesting acceptors for Saturday's big race when the list of those who had stood their ground was released yesterday after the four-day declaration stage.

Peter Easterby decided against declaring last year's Gold Cup winner, Little Owl, having said originally that either he or Night Nurse would run. So Little Owl's future remains in the melting pot after an inauspicious start to the season which has seen him first fall and then be pulled up.

In today's rather more humble fare at Windsor, there is yet another race that will entitle the first four home to have a crack at the final of the Haig Whisky Novices Hurdle series at Newcastle on March 20. In this instance Ro's Owen, Play the Knave, Border Fine Art and Gay Tent are the four who seem most likely to dominate the proceedings.

Broadsword sharpens up

By Michael Seely

Broadsword will have his Cheltenham preliminary in Nottingham's City Trial Hurdle on February 15 in preference to the Kingwell Pattern Hurdle at Wincanton. "Broadsword has already won at Nottingham and the track will suit him better than Wincanton", David Nicholson said after the Gloucestershire trainer had landed a 21 to 1 double with Stormy Spring and Sailor's Return at Leicester yesterday.

Surprisingly the bookmakers have not been impressed by Broadsword's victory in the Tote Treble Hurdle last Saturday and Ladbrokes are still offering 6 to 1 against Lord Northampton's five-year-old.

The first leg of Nicholson's double, Stormy Spring finished second to Trev's Way in the first division of the Oadby Novices' hurdle. However Peter Scudamore immediately lodged an objection to the winner for "taking my ground before and after he last hurdle". Scudamore's protest was sustained and the placings reversed. The stewards were satisfied that the interference was accidental. Nicholson's second winner, Sailor's Return, ran out a comfortable winner of the Thurnby Novices Steeplechase. Sailor's Return will now be aimed at either the Sun Alliance Chase or the Arkle Challenge Trophy

Nicholson and Scudamor have had 35 and 57 successes to their credit, respectively, this season. By a coincidence Nicholson bought both Stormy Spring and Sailor's Return at the Doncaster May Sales after they had won the four-year-old championship classes in 1980 and 1981.

John Edwards also saddled two winners and had his eighth success in 10 racing days

Cycling

Britons are on road to nowhere

By John Wilcockson

The continental road racing season began this week in familiar fashion, with Bernard Hinault of France winning the opening event on Monday, a 77-mile circuit race at Besseges, France. Today the world champion, Freddy Maertens, and the runner-up, Giuseppe Saronni, line up for the first stage of the Ruta del Sol at Marbella, Spain.

A long, full season awaits those professionals competing in France and Spain as well as the many hundreds of others who are still training. These include more than a dozen men from English-speaking countries, the biggest contingent since professional cycling became established in Britain 15 years ago.

It is ironic that, although Britain has become a successful exporter of cycling talent, the domestic situation has rarely looked so bleak. Fewer than 20 riders have obtained sponsors and most of these have signed for an unproven team organized by an ex-patriot Belgian cyclist, Patrick Schils, and backed by a distributor of coffee products, Xaviar.

A programme of events has been announced, but the prestige promotion, the Bristol to Bradford Empire Stores marathon has yet to be confirmed by the sponsor. The Professional Cycling Association (PCA) sees the proliferation of sponsored amateur clubs as a further deterrent to the expansion of a professional class in Britain.

A country with a similar cycling development to Britain is Switzerland, which until two years ago did not have a full professional team. Their professionals competed in various teams in Italy, France and The Netherlands. Since the formation of a national team, sponsored by a leading Swiss bank, the sport has blossomed in that country.

Table tennis

England's challenge

Bombay, Feb 2 — Hongkong will be seeking their third successive titles in the men's and women's team competition of the Commonwealth championships which open here tomorrow.

Their main opposition in both events is likely to come from England despite the fact they will be without their top two players Desmond Douglas and Jill Hammersley. England are the highest ranked among Commonwealth countries in the world list, sixth in the men's and 12th in the women's lists.

Hongkong have a strong men's squad in Yong In Yong, Chin Man Kuan and Chan Scheng Shian. The Indian captain Chandra Shekar is confident that the host country will reach the semi-finals of both events.

The couttries have been split into two groups of six, with the top two from each qualifying for the semi-final rounds.

Men — Group A: Hongkong, Australia, Canada, Scotland, New Zealand and Tanzania. Group B: England, Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Kenya and Sri Lanka.
Women — Group A: Hongkong, Canada, Australia, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Tanzania. Group B: England, India, New Zealand, Scotland and Pakistan. — Reuter.

Snooker

Thorne ignores blacklist

Willie Thorne is ignoring an anti-apartheid blacklist to play for a rest of the world team in a series in South Africa. Thorne will fly to Cape Town on Friday for the first of three matches.

Thorne, aged 28, was among 128 sportsmen and administrators on a blacklist announced last April by the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee. Thorne has played in South Africa before, but not since the list was announced. He said yesterday.

Hereford programme

12.15 NEW SEASON CHASE (Div I: Maiden Hunters: £451: 2½m) (13 runners)

3		ARMSTOR J Mahon 7-12-0 ....Weston 4
10	p-	CORONELLA MIAD H Williams 9-12-0 ....H Williams 7
13		FULIGINOUS Miss S Brown 9-12-0 .... —
18	/0pu-	KILTON JO A Johnson 10-12-0 ....Southern 7
19		LAR KELLY Mrs Stephens 8-12-0 ....Edwards 7
20		LAST OF THE FOXES W Davies 9-12-0 Twiston-Davies 4
22	0034-	LAGANES K Smith 7-12-0 ....K Smith 7
27		MORNING HEATHER Tory 9-12-0 ....Felton 7
31		QUEEN'S GENERAL Mrs Broad 11-12-0 .... —
34		ROJAN W McGhie 8-12-0 ....McGhie 7
35	4f/f-	ROMARDAIR Colston 10-12-0 ....Weaver 7
37		SRINAGAR K Bishop 8-12-0 ....Nicholls 7
38	p4-	ST BARBE T Long 11-12-0 ....Long 7

9-4 Morning Heather, 3 Coronella Miad, 9-2 Queen's General, 6 Laganes, 10 Lar Kelly, 14 Armstor, 20 others.

12.45 LEDBURY HURDLE (Selling handicap: £552: 2m) (22)

3	3400	POINT LOOKOUT Pipe 9-11-11 ....Leach
4	20p-0	GLISSEEN James 5-11-10 ....Morshead
6	0000-	ARCTIC RASCAL Owens 11-11-8 ....Stronge 7
8	0000	PAUW (B) Stephens 6-11-7 ....Millman 7
9	1000	FLORENCE (D) Charles 6-11-6 ....Charles 4
12	u320	BOYNE HILL (D) O O'Neill 6-11-5 ....Suthern
13	000pf	BOLD JACK Elsworth 8-11-4 ....C Brown
14	-0020	REUTERMAN (B) Jackson 7-11-2 ....Burke
18	2000	INDIAN POOL Pipe 6-10-13 .... —
19	0304-	MURRAY THWAITE Wright 7-10-13 ....Hobbs
20	p000	LADIES MAN (D) Clay 7-10-12 ....Elliott 4
21	-0000	CROOK OF DEVON (D) Perrett 9-10-12 ....Barton
22	0000	DARK SKY Keenor 15-10-11 ....Wathen 7
23	0033	SAUCY LAURA Brazington 5-10-10 ....C Jones
24	000-0	SIGN CENTRE AGAIN Low 5-10-9 ....Mr Low 7
25	0000	FINOCCHIO Palling 9-10-8 ....Candy
26	0000	MY IMP Frost 8-10-8 ....Mr Frost 7
27	-44p0	GWYNFI NI Bridgwater 6-10-7 ....Crank
29	00-00	HERON'S COPPER (B) Peacock 8-10-6 ....Evans 7
30	000p-	DEMI FEU (B) Miss Griffiths 8-10-5 ....Mr Oliver 7
31	3000	PRISONER OF ZENDA (B) Mrs Lloyd-Jones 10-10-4 Mr Sharpe 7
32	30p/p	MILITAIRE Pike 11-10-4 ....J Davies 7

2 Florence, 3 Point Lookout, 11-2 Crook of Devon, 7 Boyne Hill, 10 Indian Pool, Glisseen, 14 others

1.15 LEOMINSTER CHASE (Div 1: Novices: £1,350: 2½m) (16)

2	-f101	COOLERIN BOY (D) Winter 7-11-8 ....De Haan
14	0000/	BLUE STREAKER Mrs Rimell 9-11-3 ....Woods
16	0-000	BOW BUTTS Mrs Kington 7-11-3 ....Kington
17	/0004	BROAD LOOM Mrs Finch 6-11-3 ....Keightley 4
20	2/0-0	COUNT TEN M Dickinson 10-11-3 ....Graham
23	0p-	DAGGERS DRAWN G Price 6-11-3 ....Crank
24	0000	FANCY FELLOW Clay 8-11-3 ....Clay
26	004-f	FENAGHY Walwyn 7-11-3 ....Mr Bradstock 7
27	4b23	FINE BIRD Juckes 7-11-3 ....Carvell 4
29	0000	GILLIGAN Thomas 7-11-3 .... —
31	0000	JAY'S JET Mrs Waring 7-11-3 ....Suthern
32	-0400	LANDSLIDE Palling 9-11-3 ....Candy
33	302-f	LETTERBOX Henderson 7-11-3 ....B R Davies
47	0000	TAKE FLIGHT Jackson 8-11-3 ....Burke
49	100-0	UPHAM PLEASURE Gandolfo 7-11-3 ....Barton
52	0p00-	WHAT A PALAVER Priday 11-11-3 ....G Jones

6-4 Coolerin Boy, 3 Letterbox, 6 Upham Pleasure, 13-2 Fenaghy, 10 Fine Bird, 12 Blue streaker, 16 others.

1.45 NEW SEASON CHASE (Div II: Maiden hunters: £450: 2½m) (12)

[illegible]

2.15 WIGMORE HURDLE (Handicap: £846: 2m) (22)

[illegible]

23	0003	Tudor Road (C,D) Kennard 7-10-0 ....Dennis 7
24	-0600	Raise The Bid O O'Neill 5-10-0 ....Scudamore
25	/00F	Heriot Priday 10-10-0 ....G Jones
27	0-0P0	Princely Chief (C,D) A A Smith 10-10-0 ....Burke
28	P0/0	Gollyno (D) Wardle 5-10-0 ....Keddy
30	0000	Salute the Law Clay 11-10-0 ....Elliott 4
33	30-00	Cold Blood K White 6-10-0 ....Carvill 4

7-2 Capvista, 4 Dingbat, 5 Skinflint, 15-2 Quillery, 10 Black Earl, Roineval, 12 Leodegrance, 14 others.

2.45 WINDWARD CHASE (Handicap: £1,828: 3m 1f) (13)

1	1-pp0	RIB LAW (CD) B Wright 8-11-13 ....Scudamore
2	uab0	PILOT OFFICER Mrs Rimell 7-11-8 ....Morshead
4	fp2-1	BROOMY BANK J Edwards 7-11-4 (10 ex) ....Warner
8	p-0pp	SLIPPERY DICK Peacock 10-11-2 .... —
9	u010	BALLYSPILLANE Walwyn 8-10-12 ....Mr Bradstock 7
10	0040-	CEDOR'S DAUGHTER (CD) Miss Griffiths 11-10-12 Mr Oliver 7
11	f-214	SEA EMPEROR Kindersley 11-10-11 ....De Haan
12	02f0	PRINCELY CALL (CD) Mrs G Jones 8-10-9 ....Suthern
15	20pp	GEOFFREY SECUNDUS Keenor 12-10-6 ....Wathen 7
16	3140	HAYBALE Spearing 8-10-4 .... —
18	2f34	LAWN MEET N Henderson 7-10-1 ....Mann 7
19	30pp0	AVONCORE Yardley 10-10-1 ....C Smith
24	0G00	FOOLISH HERO (Mrs J Wakely) Bailey 6-10-0 ....Webb

9-4 Broomy Bank, 9-2 Sea Emperor, 6 Ballyspillane, 7 Pilot Officer, 8 Haybale, 10 Rib Law, 12 Lawn Meet, 14 Princely Call, 16 others.

3.15 DAMSELS HURDLE (Novices: £566: 2m) (17)

4		DOUBLE COUSIN Gandolfo 6-11-5 ....Barton
8	0	LILIAN MAY E Evans 5-11-5 ....Stronge 7
9	0	LITTLE BUSKINBELLE O O'Neill 5-11-5 ....Caswell 4
10	p	MEREBIMUR Mrs Croft 6-11-5 ....Dickin
11		MISTY SKY Bailey 5-11-5 ....Webb
13	p-	QEBIR CELTICE Barton 6-11-5 ....Floyd
15	200	SWEETCAL Cundell 5-11-5 ....Francome
16	0p	THAT WOMAN King 6-11-5 .... —
18	0	YSTRAD STAR H Thomas 5-11-5 .... —
23	0	DAYLAY QUEEN Palling 4-10-7 ....Griffiths 7
24		ELIZABETH HOWARD S Harris 4-10-7 .... —
26	0	FAIR SARA Burchell 4-10-7 .... —
27		KNIGHT'S LADY Mrs Ratcliff 4-10-7 .... —
29	0	LIFESTYLE W Francis 4-10-7 ....Moreshead
30	0	MAYGATE O O'Neill 4-10-7 ....Suthern
33		RAMAS SILK Peter Taylor 4-10-7 ....Elderfield 7
34		SWEET SURPRISE Elsworth 4-10-7 ....C Brown

10-11 Sweetcal, 9-4 Sweet Surprise, 6 Double Cousin, 12 Lifestyle, 14 Misty Sky, 16 others.

3.45 LEOMINSTER CHASE (Div II: Novices: £1,340: 2½m) (16)

1	-001	CELTIC ISLE Mrs Rimell 6-11-8 ....Moreshead
6	3144	HENLOW GAMBLE Juckes 7-11-8 ....Carvill 4
7	-2341	JARVIS BAY (D) Winter 6-11-8 ....Francombe
10	313p	TWILIGHT STAG Jenks 8-11-8 ....R F Davies
11	40-11	VALE CHALLENGE J Harris 8-11-8 ....J A Harris 4
19	00-0p	COTTAGE RHYTHM Knipe 6-11-3 ....Mr Sharpe 7
25	0-000	FARMER FRED Scudamore 6-11-3 ....Scudamore
38	00-40	OLIVER HARDY (B) Mrs Waring 7-11-3 ....Suthern
39	000-b	POLLY TOODLE (B) Swaffield 10-11-3 ....Hobbs
40	0pf0	PROSPER YOU CAN (B) Kennard 7-11-3 ....Francombe
43	00pp	RED HELMET Wardle 8-11-3 ....Smith-Eccles
46	f-000	SWALLOW PRINCE Pike 8-11-3 ....J Davies 7
48	ff	THE DRAPER Bill 9-11-3 .... —
50	3uf-3	VELVETSTOWN Mrs G Jones 8-11-3 ....Mr Crozier
51	00-fp	WESTERN SPRING Palling 8-11-3 ....Candy
55	000-0	CHALFORD HILL Mrs Lomax 5-10-8 ....Mr Roe

8-13 Celtic Isle, 5 Jarvis Bay, 8 Velvetstown, 10 Henlow Gamble, 12 Vale Challenge, 14 Twilight Stag, 16 others

4.15 NEW SEASON CHASE (Div III: Maiden Hunters: £450: 2½m) (12 runners)

1	3u3/	ALEXA REPPIN R Chapman 6-12-0 ....R Chapman 7
2	0/40-	ARCTIC HERO Wallace 10-12-0 ....Miss Wallace 7
6	4/	BRESTER II Pocock 10-12-0 ....Pocock 7
7		BROOKFIELD Young 11-12-0 ....P T Brookshaw
24		MISS CURISO Miss Woolley 9-12-0 ....J Pritchard 7
25	pf0p-	MOONELLO Carter 10-12-0 ....Miss Doherty 7

[illegible]

Hereford selections

By Michael Seely

12.15 Morning Heather. 12.45 Bold Jack. 1.15 Coolerin Boy. 1.45 Clear and Clean. 2.15 Tudor Road. 2.45 Broomy Bank. 3.15 Sweetcal. 3.45 Celtic Isle. 4.15 Brewster II.

Windsor selections

By Our Racing Correspondent

2.0 Maurice's Tip. 2.30 Loanan. 3.0 Silent Burn. 3.30 Ro's Owen. 4.0 Shane Hill. 4.30 Revolver.

Windsor programme

2.0 HOLYPORT HURDLE (Selling handicap: £564: 2m 30yd) (9 runners)

2	0000-00	HERALD HOLIDOLLY (Mrs A Grantham) M Madgwick 5-11-7 ....A Madgwick 7
3	0020	MAURICE'S TIP (D Motts) J Jenkins 4-10-13 ....M Harrington 4
4	002440	AIR POWER (I Baker) A Moore 5-10-12 ....G Moore 4
5	002	MELFORD MIST (W Musson) A Moore ....A Coogan
6	230440	LITTLE TYRANT (C Francis) B Richmond 5-10-8 ....P Corrigan 7
7	24020-0	KASCINA (H O'Neill) H O'Neill 5-10-7 .... —
10	0p-p0	MARQUIS BAY (Mrs G Davison) A Davison 5-10-6 ....J Akehurst 7
11	0p0f-p0	SICILIAN GOLD (K McCourt) (M Chapman) 5-10-6 .... —
12	000p-00	PRIME CAPTIVE (K Higson) A Moore 5-10-6 ....M Perrett 7

7-4 Melford Mist, 3 Kascina, 4 little Tyrant, 11-2 Maurice's Tip, 8 Air Power, 12 others.

2.30 COPPER HORSE HURDLE (Handicap: £1,136: 2m 30yd) (14)

2	001-004	LOANAN (L Thwaites) F Walwyn 6-11-3 ....K Mooney
3	011-011	SHOUTITOUT (Mrs J Cann) J Cann 5-11-2 (7ex) ....S G Knight
5	0-20200	PRIVATE AUDIENCE (Mrs A Beeson) E Beeson 6-10-13 ....C Kinane
6	04-1300	REMAINDER IMP (Bridge Book Co) R Turnell 5-10-10 ....A Turnell
7	300-400	RAVENSBOURNE (CD) (G Curzon) L Holt 9-10-8 ....R Atkins
8	1/0-000	PRINCES ARCADE (G Bailey) M Blanshard 9-10-8 ....M Bastard
9	200p0-1	PARTY MISS (CD) (B Curtis) W Fisher 7-10-7 ....S C Knight
10	00040p-	ALLTYRE (D Underwood) D Underwood 8-10-5 ....J Redmond 4
11	000/032	BRIGHTON MARINA (J Bath) B Wise 6-10-5 ....R Rowell
12	3100/0-	MASTERS (Sir P Crossman) D Ringer 6-10-5 ....S McNeill
13	000300	LINTON (Mrs S Threlfall) D Underwood 8-10-4 ....S Smith Eccles
17	0f03-30	GAY TWENTIES (P Gordon) C Drew 8-10-0 ....J McLaughlin 4
18	000300	SUPREME VISTA (F Sisson) B Richmond 9-10-0 ....A Webber
21	000-000	RHYTHM STICK (M Rawlings) M Rawlings 5-10-0 .... —

9-4 Brighton Marina, 5-2 Loanan, 9-2 Remainder Imp, 6 Shoutitout, 10 Private Audience, 12 others.

3.0 BOVENEY CHASE (Handicap: £1,469: 3m) (9 runners)

1	00/	SPRING CLEAR (M Rawlings) M Rawlings 11-12-7 ....M Bastard
5	3-0f0up	BROWN JOCK (D) (R Armytage) R Armytage 14-11-4 ....Mr M Armytage
8	f02-442	SILENT BURN (CD) (R Aird) T Forster 11-11-2 ....H Davies
12	3031f/	BROWN THISTLE (Mrs C Lister) R Armytage 11-10-12 ....A Webber
13	opufop	HARRY HOTSPUR (Mrs M Snell) Mrs D Oughton 12-10-9 ....S Smith Eccles
14	00331-4	UTHER PENDRAGON (D) (Mrs P Donner) T Forster 10-10-8 .... —
15	200-p03	NAMPARA (CB) (Maj-Gen R Burges) I Dudgeon 11-10-6 ....R Linley
16	0403u1/	SEA SWELL (Comm N Rydstrom) N Gaselee 12-10-5 ....V McKevitt 7
17	30-3404	WOODHAM (D) (R J Developments) J Old 12-10-4 .... —

6-4 Silent Burn, 4 Harry Hotspur, 5 Uther Pendragon, 7 Nampara, 10 Brown Jock, Woodham, 14 others.

3.30 HAIG WHISKY HURDLE (Novices: £991: 2m 30yds) (13)

3	2-30121	PLAY THE KNAVE (CD) (C de P Barry) P Bailey 5-11-6 ....V McKevitt 7
4	4330-31	RO'S OWEN (CD) (Mrs J Cotton) R Head 7-11-5 .... —
6	10	BORDER FINE ART (Norman C Roach) J Thorn 5-11-1 ....R Hoare
8	p0b0/	BRAVE SPIRIT (W Whitbread) R Armytage 7-11-0 ....A Webber
9	0	HENRY FORD (Mrs J Ford) J Jenkins 6-11-0 ....M Harrington 4
11	00	NATURE WALK (Mrs H Hawkins) J Jenkins 6-11-0 ....H Jenkins 7
13	p	ACHIEVER (J O'Neill) P Bailey 5-10-10 ....S Smith-Eccles
14	00	DUESENBERG (Mrs S O'Brien) D Ancil 5-10-10 ....E Waite 4
15	03	GAY TENT (F Haggas) N Gaselee 5-10-10 ....R Linley
16	00	MEL TOR (T Whitley) Mrs E Kennard 5-10-10 ....S May
19	0-00	STEPHEN LANGTON (C Ponting) R Turnell 5-10-10 ....A Turnell
21	000p-0f	THE TOTM (O Donnelly) P Butler 5-10-10 .... —
22		WINGSOFTHEMORNING (Lydiate Packaging Ltd) A Madwar 5-10-10 J Barlow

15-8 Ro's Owen, 5-2 Play The Knave, 5 Gay Tent, 13-2 Border Fine Art, 10 Stephen Langton, 14 others.

4.0 OAKSIDE CHASE (Novices handicap: £1,219: 2m 5f) (13)

2	10p414	SHANE HILL (C) (Mrs S Embiricos) J Gifford 9-11-12 ....R Rowe
5	34011b	TOM SCOLEY (J Caswell) J Old 9-11-4 ....R Champion
9	20-f040	CROZURRY (Mrs J Finding) T Forster 7-10-13 ....S Smith-Eccles
10	3ff2-4f	DUTCHMAN (Greenwood Electronics) T Forster 8-10-13 ....H Davies
11	3f4/331	BETTER THAN EVER (C (Popham) C Popham 10-10-11(10ex) ....S C Knight
12	200-04p	SIR BOUNTIFUL (Mrs G Allen) S Cole 8-10-10 ....M Bastard

[illegible]

4.30 BROCAS HURDLE (Novices: £690: 2¾m) (21 runners)

[illegible]

Leicester results

[illegible]

Sedgefield results

[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

La crème de la crème

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New homes for 1982

Going on the Gold Standard

Those builders who are having trouble getting rid of their houses have gone on the Gold Standard. So if you dream of gold bars, piles of cash and a new car in the garage, you no longer have to do the pools or hope that your premium bond comes up. All you have to do is buy a new house, for all these goodies are on offer from the major housebuilders as an incentive to buy in these recession-hit times.

Comben Homes' development of 22 two three and four bedroom homes at The Green, South Wales, aims to show new styles can be blended in with existing buildings. Prices range from £40,000 to £80,000.

The gold ingots seem to be limited to Crouch Homes which celebrated its fiftieth anniversary last year. If you bought a Crouch home in 1981, a 10 gramme 24 carat gold bar was yours for every £10,000 of the purchase price. As an added extra if you exchanged contracts in less than 15 weeks, another ingot was put in your eager hand. However, not all the builders' incentives are as unusual. Most come in the form of benefits.

Many housebuilders, especially the top names, offer mortgages with their new developments, often up to 95 per cent of the purchase price. Building societies give the builders an allocation for new homes. These are often the larger societies where interest rates are competitive. Names like Wimpey, Wates, New Ideal Homes, Algrey, Barratts and Drycon offer subsidized mortgages for a year after purchase.

Wates is offering a zero interest mortgage for six months on houses where contracts have been exchanged within six weeks of reservation. The zero mortgage lasts for shorter periods than six months where contracts are exchanged longer after reservation. The price of the houses also limits the size of the mortgage which is eligible for nil interest. For example, no interest will be charged on £15,000 of the mortgage for a £35,000 house.

Wimpey, Algrey and Drycon reduce the mortgage rate to 7.5 per cent for a year after purchase. In Wimpey's case, the limit is a £25,000 mortgage. New Ideal Home subsidises mortgages at 10 per cent for a year, as does Barratt, again up to a £25,000 loan. Contracts have to be exchanged within six weeks and the money can be paid in two instalments in cash. Alternatively New Ideal allows £1,000 off the purchase price for an exchange within six weeks.

With the spectre of redundancy looming large for many people, the prospect of mortgage protection from the housebuilder is attractive. Bristol-based Comben Homes, Britain's fifth largest housebuilder, pioneered a redundancy protection scheme. Comben will pay premiums on an insurance policy covering mortgage repayments. The scheme has been taken up by other builders since then. Wimpey Homes has a system whereby if the home buyer is made redundant within two years of purchase, the builder will pay the mortgage for another two years.

Many a distraught person trying to sell his own house and buy a brand new one will be grateful for the offer from some of the builders to buy his existing home. Both builder and prospective customer can benefit from breaking the buying and selling chain which holds up so many people in their attempt to move. Delays can be both frustrating and expensive.

Builders offering part exchange include Wimpey, Laing, Comben, Broseley, New Ideal, Northern and Southern Ideal and Barratt. The builder buys your house at the market rate and the money goes toward the purchase of one of his houses. In the case where you have found a buyer for your house but he has not got one for his, some builders will step in and break the chain by buying his house in a similar way. Barratt offers part exchange on its California homes.

Builders such as New Ideal, Costain and Comben offer equity sharing on some of their schemes. In Comben's case the company will defer up to 15 per cent of the price on a new house for which no interest will be charged. The size of the buyer's mortgage repayments is therefore reduced. When the house is resold the deferred 15 per cent is paid back to Comben at the current market price. New Ideal defers payment on 10 per cent of the price until the house is resold, otherwise its offer is the same.

The first-time buyer really gets preferential treatment in the incentives on offer. He may find his legal and other fees are paid for him and help available in the shape of interest-free loan. New Ideal and Barratt offer interest-waived loans of £1,000 for five years to first-time buyers. The loan is paid back after five years or on resale if that is sooner. It is possible to move into some New Ideal and Barratt houses for as little as £200-£250, taking into account the 10 per cent mortgage and loan or £500 in cash.

Wimpey and Barratt also offer first-time buyers help in the shape of paying legal fees, stamp duty and other fees on houses up to a certain price. Mortgages are available up to 95 per cent of the purchase price and interest-free loans are there for making up the rest.

Savings plans, rather like the ones launched by the Government last year are also available from people such as Comben, Wimpey, Laurence Homes, and Barratt. If prospective buyers have not saved enough for a deposit, Wimpey and Barrett will add £20 to evey £100 regularly saved with a building society. On selected Wimpey schemes, buyers can move in and live rent free while they save the rest of the deposit needed to make up the purchase price. Similarly, Comben allows first-time buyers to move in for £100 with four months to save for their deposit before paying the mortgage instalments.

Laurence Homes has a Bonus Savings Scheme by which it will double the building society interest recieved on savings if the saver buys a Laurence house.

For those people looking for a foot on the rung of the housing ladder, more and more of the builders are selling studio type flats, first marketed by Barratts. Barratts Solo was first in the field but it is being followed up by other big names in the house market. Barratts say there is an insatiable demand for this type of home.

Wimpey has its Super Singles which have sold so quickly that it plans to build another 1,000 this year. It says its singles are slightly larger than Barratts and have a sepatate bath rather than shower. Wates also has Studio units on the way which it says are 15 per cent larger than Barratt's Solos.

However attractive things like free carpets, colour televisions and cars may be, the prime need, for the first-time buyer especially is help with a deposit and low-cost small homes.

That is the view of West Country agents Lalonde Brothers & Parham. Residential partner Peter Sykes says many of the incentives are more eye catching than practical. He predicts that builders who help out financially with deposits, fees and savings will be the ones who maintain sales in 1982. Certainly if you are thinking of buying a new house, now is the time to shop around for the best offers.

Residential property by Gareth David

Budget could boost house prices

House prices have stagnated even in affluent and leafy Surrey, according to local agents Messenger May Baverstock, but given a favourable Budget they should begin to rise and could be 10 per cent higher a year from now.

During 1981 house prices in the agents' sales area, covering Godalming, Farnham, Guildford and Camberley, rose by an average 5.69 per cent.

This pattern followed that of the previous two years with rises recorded in the first half year which were lost or substantially reduced in the second, and the agents ask whether this will be the pattern of the residential market in years to come.

The agents had forecast a 10 per cent rise in prices during 1981, in common with many other followers of the residential market, and although sales started the year well more property came onto the market than was sold.

Their detailed records of inquiries show that in the January to June period new applicant inquiries rose 4.5 per cent above the previous 15 years' average but that in the period July to December there was a 10 per cent fall. In the first half there was an increase of 33 per cent in the number of homes coming onto the market, with a 21 per cent increase in the second half.

The agent's report records the mini boom of the spring and early summer when buyers had confidence in the market, sales were made at good prices and competition even led to some gazumping. The euphoria of that period meant that buyers were prepared to take unsecured bridging loans to clinch their deals.

As the autumn arrived the market continued very active but buyers became more discriminating and expected to get a reduction on the asking price.

They were no longer prepared to overbid nor to take bridging finance to complete their purchases, so chains developed which all depended on the weakest buyer to proceed. Inevitably some purchasers in chains withdrew leading to the collapse of the whole and deterioration of confidence.

Market conditions saw the increase in the bank lending rate, the rapid fall of the stock market index and doom and gloom being preached at some of the political party conferences. These circumstances had a fairly dramatic effect on the residential property market and from then on the fall off in inquiries was matched by an unabated stream of houses coming onto the market, the agents say.

In making forecasts for this year, Messenger May Baverstock point out the relative prosperity of the Surrey area, with unemployment in Guildford and Godalming only 4.8 per cent, against a national average of 13.5 per cent. Even in Farnham, Camberley and Aldershot the level of 7.1 per cent is almost half the national average.

Although there has been no significant rise in property prices since October 1979, inflation has been in double figures for the whole period and building costs have showed significant increases so that in almost all cases it would be very much more expensive to build a property than to purchase one second hand.

House prices are undoubtedly too low, the agents, conclude and represent a bargain when compared with current prices of commodities. The comparison with average salaries indicates that a rise is pending, they conclude.

There are too many properties offered for sale and prices will not increase until the registers have been reduced either by purchasers buying at present bargain rates or vendors withdrawing froum the market.

The area covered by the agents is undoubtedly middle class in character but in one of the main towns in the region, Guildford, it has been homes for first time buyers at prices of up to £30,000 that have remained in demand rather than the middle range. Indeed the agents' local office comments that in some cases 3 and 4 bedroom estate houses have been almost impossible to sell.

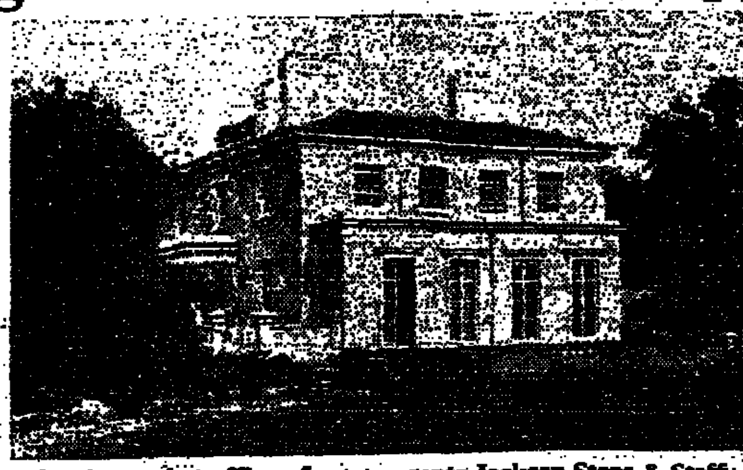
The Guildford office reports that if the rate of inquires does not pick up during January, one of the three busiest months of the year, there will be intense competition between vendors to attract genuine buyers leading to a further reduction in prices until the market levels out.

Much the same picture is painted by the agents Haslemere office, which comments that the slump in prices would have been even worse if the banks had not entered the home loan market and made mortgages readily available.

There is the possibility that spring will bring a false dawn, the office says, but this is likely to be short lived and there will be a rapid return to the present state of the market.

Despite its excellent central location with good communications and a high level of employment, there is no sign of an upturn in the residential market in Alton, according to the agents' local office.

Finally, there is a message from the Farnham office to anyone hoping to move in 1982: "Find a buyer for your own property first and you will find the choice for you is wide."



The Newmarket office of estate agents Jackson-Stops & Staff is asking £150,000 for the Old Rectory at Ingham, near Bury St Edmunds. It stands in a 2¼-acre garden and accommodation includes reception hall, cloakroom, four reception rooms and eight bedrooms.

(continued on page 22)

"... FROM FURTHEST EAST to furthest west my name is great among the nations. Everywhere fragrant sacrifice and pure gifts are offered in my name ... says the LORD of hosts."—Malachi 1: 11 (NEB).

BIRTHS

BONADDIO.—On 31st January, to Victoria (nee Hooton) and Enzo—a daughter (Gabriella).

BRAMLEY.—On January 28th, at Hill Farm, Gillingham, Norfolk, to Patricia (nee Mason) and Robin—a son (George Philip Todhunter), brother for Henrietta.

BUMSTEAD.—On January 31st, at St Thomas's Hospital, to Janice and Dennis—a son (Thomas Christopher), a brother for Jocelyn and Zoe.

CORSTORPHINE.—On 12th January, at Falkirk Royal Infirmary, to Evelyn & Dale—a daughter (Jennifer Louise).

DICKSON.—On 31st January, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Penny (nee Drysdale) and Alistair—a daughter (Emily Anne).

DONOVAN.—On 30th January, to Christian (nee Davidson) and Michael—a daughter (Frances Margaret).

DOYLE.—On December 13th, 1981, at the Clinique Baron Lambert, Brussels, to Eunice and Brian—a daughter (Louise Frances).

ELLWOOD.—On 1st February, at St Thomas's Hospital, to Bridget and John—a daughter.

FUNNELL.—On January 29th, at Royal United Hospital, Bath, to Gaynor (nee Beynon) and John—a daughter (Eleanor Jane).

KIRKMAN to Anita (nee Foden) and Trevor.—On 13th January, 1982, at The Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham—a son (Thomas William George).

LAMPLOUGH.—On January 29th, to Mandy (nee Pincott) and Shaun—a daughter (Joanna Susan), a sister for Simon.

SANDLAND.—On 2nd February 1982 at the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital, to Jacqueline (nee Gauchier) and Michael—a son (Thomas William).

SNEATH.—On January 15th, to Anna and David—a daughter (Rebecca Frances), a sister for ...

BIRTHDAYS

MARRIAGE

DEATHS

QUINEY.—On January 30th, 1982, peacefully at home, Charles John Quiney, of Flashwood Green Moor, Wortley, Sheffield. Service at St. Leonard's Church, Wortley, Thursday, February 4th, at 2.30 pm. Donations, in lieu of flowers for St. Leonard's Church, Restoration Fund, may be sent to John Heath & Sons, Funeral Directors, Sheffield.

SAKULA.—On January 31, aged 73, Jack Sakula, MD, FRCP, DCH. Beloved husband of Denise after a long illness faced with great courage. Cremation at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, NW11, at 11 am, on Thursday, February 4. No flowers please but donations if desired to Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

SELWYN.—On January 29th 1982, Edward John, of London, NW8, aged 70, at St. Mary's Hospital, Harrow Road, beloved husband of Jean and Loving, and much loved father and grandfather. Service at St. John's Wood Church, St. John's Wood High Street, London, NW8, on Friday, 5th February, at 11.30, followed by interment at Kensal Green. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, to Musicians Benevolent Fund, 16 Ogle Street, London W1.

SMITH.—On January 29th, in a London hospital, Eileen Farral, aged 37 years. Funeral service at Golders Green Crematorium, on Friday, February 5th at 4 p.m. By her request, please, no flowers.

THOMAS.—On January 31, 1982, peacefully at home, Zillah Thomas of Edenbridge, Kent. Beloved mother of Margaret and Charles and also to Stella, grandma of Diana, Janice, Elaine and David. Service at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Worth, on Friday, February 5, at 3.15 pm. Cut flowers or donations to National Kidney Research Fund, 184B Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex.

THORPE.—On January 27th, 1982, peacefully at Clench House, Holbrook, Ipswich, Florence Gertrude, aged 95 years. Dear great-aunt of Adrian. Funeral service at Ipswich Crematorium, North Chapel, on Monday, February 8th, at 3.15 p.m. Flowers ...

IN MEMORIAM

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PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 21

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(continued on page 21)

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For Valentine's Day The Times could print a personal message for you, to the one of your choice.* Just complete the coupon and write your message on a separate piece of paper and send it together with a cheque or postal order to the address written below by 9th February.

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ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

CONCERTS

THEATRES

Today's television and radio programmes

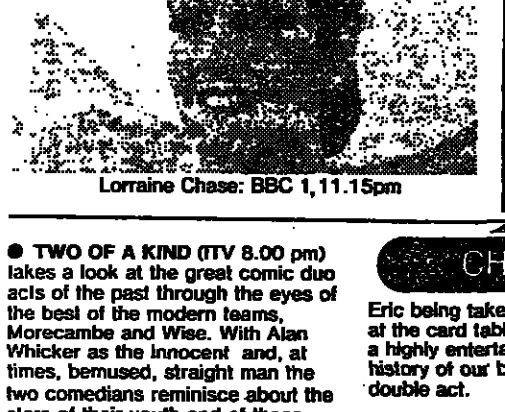
Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

9.05 For Schools, Colleges: Dye and Investment Casting. 9.38 Science: Dissolving. 10.00 You and Me with Lesley Wiltshire (not Schools). 10.15 Everyday Maths. 10.38 Geometry. 11.00 Words and Pictures. 11.17 Electricity in Music. 11.40 Living Images. 12.05 French. 12.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Moira Stuart. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only: Financial report and news headlines) 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. With the £1,000 competition winner. 1.45 Postman Pat. A See-Saw programme for the very young (r). 2.01 For Schools, Colleges: To the Polar regions with Captain Cook. 2.40 Travelling by horse and motor. 3.05 Songs of Praise from the Parish Church of All Saints, Blackheath introduced by Michael Barratt (r). 3.40 Play it Safe! introduced by Jimmy Savile (r). 3.53 Regional news (not London).

3.55 Play School. For the under fives (shown earlier on BBC 2).
4.20 Cartoon: Secret Squirrel in Gold Rushed (r).
4.25 Jackanory. Tony Aitken with part three of The Eggbox Brontosaurus.
4.40 Take Hart. Tony Hart with a programme about stripes.
5.00 John Craven's Newsround.
5.10 The Story of the Treasure Seekers. Episode five of six dramatising the story by E. Nesbit.
5.40 News with Richard Baker.
6.00 South East at Six.
6.25 Nationwide.
6.55 Rolf Harris Cartoon Time. Four cartoons featuring Tom and Jerry, Droopy, Barney Bear and Bugs Bunny.
7.25 The Variety Club Awards introduced by Terry Wogan and Ray Moore from the Hilton Hotel, London.
8.10 Olivia Newton-John. A visual interpretation of some of the numbers from the singer's latest long playing record.

9.00 News with John Humphrys.
9.25 Sportsnight introduced by Harry Carpenter. The line up is: Highlights from one of tonight's Football League Cup semi-finals; The WBC Light-Middleweight Championship between Benitez and Duran in Las Vegas; European Figure Skating Championships from Lyons; and the Men's Giant Slalom in the World Ski-ing Championships from Haus, Austria.
11.13 News headlines.
11.15 Parkinson. His guests are Rolling Stone, Bill Wyman, comedienne Lorraine Chase and book specialist Frank Delaney.
12.10 Weather.


Lorraine Chase: BBC 1, 11.15pm

BBC 2

10.20 Gharbar A magazine programme of interest to Asian women. 10.45 Closedown. 11.00 Play School. For the under fives presented by Sarah Long and Don Spencer with Derek Griffiths. The story is Biffy — the Small Dog with the Big Bone by Julie and Don Spencer. 11.25 Closedown. 12.30 Open University: Developing Mathematical Thinking: Fractions. 1.20 Closedown. 3.55 Landscapes of England. In the fifth of twelve excursions of discovery Professor W. G. Hoskins visits the Black Country, the area of south Staffordshire between Walsall and Wolverhampton. Professor Hoskins examines the landscape and the influence it has on the population (r).

4.20 Robinson's Travels. Robert Robinson travels the Pioneer Trail westward across the United States (r).
5.10 Toyah at the Rainbow. Highlights of the concert recorded last year at the Rainbow Theatre, London (r).
5.40 Laurel and Hardy in Busy Bodies* (1933).
6.00 The Water Margin. Heroic adventures of ancient Chinese knights.
6.45 The Making of Mankind presented by Richard Leakey.
7.35 News with subtitles.
7.40 The Master Game. The first of a new series. Jeremy James introduces the game between Hecht of West Germany and Christiansen of the United States.
8.10 Chronicle: Ancient Mariners. An insight into the trading between countries of the ancient world.

9.00 M*A*S*H. A new surgeon to the 4077th creates problems for the regulars when he suffers a nervous breakdown. Alan Alda and Mike Farrell star in the long-running black comedy.
9.25 The Bell. The final episode of the novel by Iris Murdoch. Everything is set for the contrived "miracle" thought up by Dora and Toby when trouble looms on the horizon in the shape of Noel, Dora's old flame.
10.20 Out of Court. The first of a new series of seven programmes presented by Nick Ross and Jane Walmsley. They bring some of the legal stories of the week.
10.50 Newsnight. Among the items is an interview by Joan Bakewell with Elizabeth Canham, an ordained lady of the cloth. Ends at 11.40.

ITV/LONDON

9.30 For Schools: Insight for the hearing impaired. 9.47 Picture Box 10.04 A visit to a quarry and the uses of stone in architecture 10.16 German conversation 10.38 The Legacy of Faisal 11.02 A visit to Castle Eaton 11.20 The need for sleep and exercise 11.39 The Royal Wedding of 1947 12.00 The Munch Bunch. Vegetable characters for the very young 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets 12.30 Play It Again. Tony Bilbow talks to Oliver Tobias who also choose some clips from his favourite films 1.00 News 1.20 Thames news 1.30 Take the High Road. Drama serial set in a highland estate 2.00 After Noon Plus. American actress Nancy Roberts extols the virtues of 'big is beautiful' to Kay Avila 2.45 The Six Million Dollar Man. Steve Austin identifies a man he saw try to kill somebody — but he has a cast-iron alibi (r) 3.45 Definition. A quiz chaired by Pete Murray.

4.15 Cartoon: Dangermouse.
4.20 Madabout. Michael Bentine talks to actress Francoise Pascal about her hobby of archaeology.
4.45 Arthur of the Britons. Adventure series set in the time of King Arthur.
5.15 Mr Merlin. Comic adventures of a wizard disguised as a garage manager.
5.45 News 6.00 Thames news.
6.25 Help! In the last of the three programme series on the problem of alcohol abuse, Viv Taylor Gee talks about Al-Anon, a self-help group.
6.35 Crossroads.
7.00 This is Your Life introduced by Eamonn Andrews.
7.30 Coronation Street. Is Annie Walker about to buy a new car?
8.00 Two of a Kind. Morecambe and Wise discuss famous comic double acts with Alan Whicker.

9.00 Minder: Terry is 'minding' Mad Micky who is on the run. With his knowledge of the whereabouts of the criminal Arthur sees the chance of making a few 'sovs' by arranging a scoop for a newspaper at the same time helping the escapee air his grievance about the length of his sentence. Mad Mickey is played by John Labanowski, Terry by Dennis Waterman and Arthur is played to perfection by George Cole.
10.00 News.
10.30 Film: Halloween (1978) starring Donald Pleasance and Jamie Lee Curtis: A creepy tale of an escaped lunatic on the rampage in a small Illinois town. His target is a trio of teenage girls, one of whom has the chance to bump him off with a variety of sharp instruments but obviously doesn't dig deep enough. The director is John Carpenter. This film marks the screen debut of Miss Curtis, the daughter of the Hollywood couple Janet Leigh and Tony Curtis.
12.15 Close with Quentin Crisp talking about living in style.

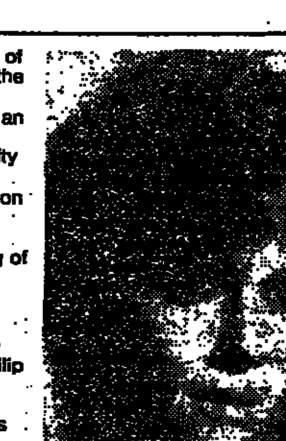
CHOICE

● TWO OF A KIND (ITV 8.00 pm) takes a look at the great comic duo acts of the past through the eyes of the best of the modern teams, Morecambe and Wise. With Alan Whicker as the innocent and, at times, bemused, straight man the two comedians reminisce about the stars of their youth and of those whom they have based their act. With the help of wonderful archive film some of the great names of the past come to life. It is a joy to see, for the first time in my case, the classic Jerry Desmond/Sid Field golfing sketch as well as the quick-fire patter of Flanagan and Allen. Interestingly, and the point is made by Whicker, the least funny clip is of Abbott and Costello. These two, Morecambe and Wise claim, were the act on which they based theirs. A vintage Morecambe and Wise clip shows how their present roles were originally reversed with the gullible Eric being taken for a ride by Ernie at the card table. The programme is a highly entertaining look at the history of our best known comedy double act.

● If comedy is not for you a musical alternative is OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN (BBC 1 8.10 pm) The attractive singer, born in Cambridge but brought up in Australia has cleverly put together a visual act illustrating the lyrics of her latest album, Physical. The idea partly works but her prettiness and her gyrations tend to take ones mind away from the object of the exercise — her voice.

● Last year on PEBBLE MILL AT ONE (BBC 1, 1.00 pm) Victor Kiam, the forceful president of the Remington shaver company gave an airing to his views on the attitude of the British worker. At the end of the programme he issued a £1,000 challenge to any viewer who had an original idea that could be made commercially viable. The popularity of this lunchtime show generated nearly 2,000 replies. This afternoon Mr Kiam returns to present the winner with the prize and also to guarantee the project the backing of his company.

● SAUL BELLOW AND THE LATTER-DAY LEAN-TO (Radio 3 7.00 pm) is an examination of the Nobel Prize winning author by Philip French. The occasion is the publication of The Dean's December, his first novel since his prize for Literature five years ago. Among those contributing to this critical appraisal of his literary career are fellow author, John Updike, and academic colleagues from Yale and Chicago Universities.


Olivia Newton-John: BBC1, 8.10pm

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.30 Today.
8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 Midweek: Henry Kelly.
10.00 News.
10.02 Gardeners' Question Time visits Gloucestershire.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 Morning Story: "Everything Laid On" by Brian Glanville.
11.00 News.
11.05 Baker's Dozen.
12.00 News.
12.02 You and Yours.
12.27 Around the World in 25 Years. Johnny Morris recalls 25 years of travel. †
12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.40 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.02 Woman's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.02 Play: "You're Laughing, Claud" by Michael Toft. †
3.50 Zoo Talk.
4.00 Breast High amid the Corn. The life and poetry of Thomas Hood.
4.45 Story Time: "Marital Rites" by Margaret Forster (8).
5.00 PM.
5.55 Weather.
6.00 News and Financial Report.
6.30 My Word! †
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Checkpoint.
7.45 The Profession of Intelligence. The history of British intelligence since the Second World War. (The second of three documentaries).
8.30 A Sideways Look At . . . by Anthony Smith.
8.45 File on 4: Major issues, important events at home and abroad.
9.30 Kaleidoscope.
9.59 Weather.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.30 Quote . . . Unquote. Nigel Rees and guests share favourite quotations and identify others.†
11.00 A Book at Bedtime: "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" by James Joyce (13).
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
12.00 News — Weather.

VHF: 6.25 Weather. 10.00 For Schools. 10.30 Listen with Mother. 11.00 For Schools. 2.00 For Schools. 5.50 PM (continued). 11.00 Study on 4.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Your Midweek Choice† Record requests: Wagner, Ravel, Rachmaninov.
8.00 News.
8.05 Your Midweek Choice (continued) Arensky, Beethoven, Mozart.
9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composers† Albinoni and Marcello; records.
9.50 Mozart and Schubert† Piano recital.
11.15 Enescot String Quartet recital.
11.45 Bournemouth Sinfonietta† Concert: Haydn, Delibes, Faure, Saint-Saens.
1.00 News.
1.05 Concert Hall† Cello and piano recital: Rachmaninov, Nin.
2.00 Music Weekly.†
2.50 Jazzmen Talking. In this third programme of eight Charles Fox talks to drummer Elvin Jones. Jones describes what it was like playing with such giants as Bud Powell, Charlie Mingus, Miles Davis and Sonny Rollins and how he enjoyed his six years with the John Coltrane Quartet. He also has news of his own groups, the first of which he formed in 1964.
4.00 Choral Evensong† from St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.
4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure.†
7.00 Saul Bellow and the Latter-Day-Lean-To. A commentary on the life and work of Nobel prize-winning writer: Saul Bellow.
8.00 Berg, Schoenberg and Brahms† Concert direct from the Royal Festival Hall, London, Part 1: Berg, Schoenberg.
8.50 Six Continents.
9.10 Concert† Part 2: Brahms.
10.00 Music in our Time† Barton McLean, Jouni Kaipainen, Somei Sato, Frederik van Rossum.
11.00 News.
11.05 Youra Geller on records playing four pieces of 18th century French keyboard music, by Rameau, Couperin, Louis Daquin and Claude Balbastre.

Medium frequency/medium wave as vhf above except: 7.05-11.15 am Cricket: Sixth Test.


Saul Bellow: Radio 3, 7.00pm

Radio 2

5.00 News. 5.03 Ray Moore.† 7.30 Terry Wogan.† 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.03 Gloria Hunniford.† 2.00 Ed Stewart.† 4.00 David Hamilton.† 5.45 News and Sport. 6.00 John Dunn.† 8.00 Alan Dell. 8.30 The King's Collection.† 9.00 The Folk Entertainers.† 9.30 Sounds of the Sun.† 10.00 Pros and Cons. 10.30 Be My Guest. 11.00 Brian Matthew. 12.00 Midnight Newsroom and Weather, † from midnight. 1.00 Truckers' Hour.† 2.00-5.00 You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

5.00 As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Dave Lee Travis. 2.00 Paul Burnett. 3.30 Steve Wright. 5.00 Peter Powell. 7.00 Radio 1 Mailbag: Phone-in on 01-580 4411. 8.00 David Jensen. 10.00 John Peel.† 12.00 midnight Close.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave 648KHs (463m) at the following times GMT: 6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-four Hours: News Summary. 7.30 Letter from London. 7.40 Book Choice. 7.45 Report on Religion. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 The King of Instruments. 8.30 Animal, Vegetable or Mineral? 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Terry Wogan's Album Time. 10.15 Classical Record Review. 10.30 The Red and the Black. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News about Britain. 11.15 Listening Post. 11.30 Meridian. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Nature Notebook. 12.25 The Farming World. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary. 1.30 Radio Theatre. 2.15 Report on Religion. 2.30 A Word in Edgeways. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Outlook. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Musician at Large. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Listening Post. 5.25 The King of Instruments. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Twenty-Four Hours News Summary. 9.15 Marching and Waltzing. 9.30 Jazz for the Asking. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Paperback Choice. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 I Spy Fiction. 11.30 Top Twenty. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News About Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Listening Post. 12.45 Smash of the Day: The Navy Lark. 1.15 Outlook. 1.45 Is Sin Out of Date? 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 Assignment. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 Just a Minute. 4.00 Newsdesk. 5.45 The World Today.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1 MF 1053kHz/285m or 1089kHz/275m. Radio 2 MF 693kHz/433m or 909kHz/330m. Radio 1/2 VHF 88-91MHz Radio 3 VHF 90-92.5MHz. MF 1215kHz/247m. Radio 4 LF 200kHz/1500m and VHF 92-95MHz Greater London Area MF 720kHz/417m LBC MF 1152khz/261m, VHF 97.3MHz. Capital MF 1548kHz/194m, VHF 95.8MHz. BBC Radio London MF 1458kHz/206m and VHF 94 9MHz World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC 1

CYMRU/WALES 11.17 am-11.40 l Ysgolion: Ffenestri: Linellau lll. 11.40-12.05 pm l Ysgolion: Daearyddiaeth: Brazil. 12.57-1.00 News of Wales. 2.18-2.40 Hyn O Fyd. 5.10-5.40 Grange Hill (Part 9). 6.00-6.25 Wales Today. 6.55-7.15 Heddiw. 7.15-7.45 Tomos A Titw. 7.45-8.10 Doctor Who (Part 2). 12.10 am. News and weather. SCOTLAND 12.55 pm-1.00 The Scottish News. 2.40-3.05 For Schools: Around Scotland: Maps. 6.00-6.25 Reporting Scotland. 6.55-7.25 C. I. S. Indoor Bowls. 12.10 am News and weather. NORTHERN IRELAND 12.57 pm-1.00 Northern Ireland News. 3.53-3.55 Northern Ireland News. 6.00-6.25 Scene Around Six. 6.55-7.25 Campus Rock (The Undertones and The Mighty Shamrods). 12.10 am News and weather. ENGLAND 6.00 pm-6.25 Regional news magazines. 6.55-7.25 East — World Apart. London and the South East — Rolf Harris Cartoon Time. Midlands — Challenge. North — Lifelines. North East — The Bellamy Quiz. North West — Sit Thi Deewn. South — Hey Look . . . That's Me. South West — The Music Quiz. West — RPM. 12.15 am Close.

TSW

As Thames except 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Trapper John. 5.15 Gus Honeybun. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Today South West. 6.30-7.00 Scene South West. Day in the Life. 10.35 Film: Butterflies Are Free (Goldie Hawn, Paul Michael Glaser). Unconventional woman moves into a New York apartment. 12.30 am Postscript. 12.36 Closedown.

GRAMPIAN

As Thames Except: Starts 9.25am-9.30 First Thing. 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Trapper John. 5.15-5.45 Private Benjamin. 6.00-6.35 North Tonight. 12.15am News. 12.20 Closedown.

CENTRAL

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Hagen (Chad Everett). 5.15-5.45 Radio. 6.00 Crossroads. 6.25-7.00 News. 10.30 Film: Mean Machine (Burt Reynolds). Former football star is imprisoned after resisting arrest for car theft. 12.45 am Portrait of a Legend: Gladys Knight. 1.15 Closedown.

SCOTTISH

As Thames except: 1.20 pm News. 1.30-2.00 Full Life: Sir Roland Penrose. 2.45-3.45 Love Boat. 5.15 Tiddlers Tales. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.20 Action Line. 6.30-7.00 Tom Weir: Loch Lomond. 12.15 am Late Call. 12.20 Closedown.

TYNE TEES

As Thames Except: Starts 9.20am Good Word. 9.25-9.30 News. 1.20pm News. 1.25-1.30 Where The Jobs Are. 2.45-3.45 Love Boat. 5.15-5.45 Private Benjamin. 6.00 News. 6.02 Crossroads. 6.25-7.00 Northern Life. 12.10am That's The Way To Do It. 12.15 Closedown.

YORKSHIRE

As Thames Except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Trapper John. 5.15-5.45 Private Benjamin. 6.00-6.35 Calendar. 12.15 am Closedown.

BORDER

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 The Ante Room: Period Irish drama. 5.15-5.45 Radio. 6.00 Lookaround. 6.35-7.00 Crosroads. 12.15 am News. 12.18 Closedown.

GRANADA

As Thames except: 1.20 pm Granada Reports. 1.30 Exchange Flags. 2.00 Take The High Road. 2.30 Multi-million Viewer Audition. Viewers see artists audition for television. 2.45-3.45 Ante-Room. 5.15-5.45 Private Benjamin. 6.00 This is Your Right. 6.05 Crossroads. 6.30-7.00 Granada Reports. 12.15 am Closedown.

ANGLIA

As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Trapper John. 5.15-5.45 Happy Days. 6.00-6.35 About Anglia. 12.15am Big Question.

TVS

As Thames except: 1.20-1.30 TVS News. 2.45-3.45 Play: The Ante Room. 5.15 Radio. 5.30-5.45 Coast to Coast. 6.00-6.35 Coast to Coast. 12.10am Company.

ULSTER

As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 2.45-3:45 New Avengers. 5.15 Radio. 5.30-5.45 Good Evening Ulster. 6.00-6.35 Good Evening Ulster. 12.15am Bedtime, followed by Closedown.

HTV WEST

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45 Bracken. 3.45-4.15 History Makers: Romans. 4.45 Sport Billy. 5.10 Ask Oscar! 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 News. 6.30-7.00 Sing a Song with Me: Teams from Bristol and Frome compete in music quiz. 12.15 am Closedown.

HTV CYMRU/WALES

As HTV West except: 12.00-12.10 pm Ffalabalam 4.15 Y Rheilffordd Gudd. 4.45 Mr Merlin. 5.10-5.20 Dick Tracy. 6.00 Y Dydd. 6.15-6.30 Report Wales.

CHANNEL

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Trapper John 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Channel Report. 6.30-7.00 Bailey's Bird. 10.28 News. 10.35 Film: Butterflies are Free, (Goldie Hawn, Paul Michael Glaser). Unconventional woman moves into a New York apartment. 12.30 am Epilogue, Closedown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN † STEREO * BLACK AND WHITE (r) REPEAT

Entertainments Guide

Iran frees Briton from prison after 17 months

By Our Foreign Staff

Mr Andrew Pyke, the British businessman who has been held in an Iranian prison without trial for the past 17 months, has been released, the Foreign Office announced yesterday.

A Foreign Office spokesman in London said that Mr Pyke, aged 42, was handed to Swedish diplomats who represent British interests in Tehran on Thursday and would return home in the next few days. "We are just waiting for the formalities to be completed, then he can leave", the spokesman said.

A British diplomat contacted by telephone in the Swedish Embassy in Tehran said that Mr Pyke was in good shape when he left prison and had spoken to his wife in Holland and his father in Britain on several occasions since his release.

He was spending his time reading some of the 10,000 Christmas cards sent by well-wishers in Britain and walking round the embassy compound just enjoying life.

"You can imagine how he felt when he was released", the diplomat, Mr Nicholas Barrington, head of the British interests section in the Swedish Embassy, said. "His reaction was one of tremendous delight." Mr Barrington said that the Iranian judicial process had been completed, Mr Pyke had been found innocent of all charges and had then been set free.

Asked why the news of Mr Pyke's release had not been confirmed until yesterday, officials in Whitehall explained their caution by recalling the problems which the American hostages had encountered during the final hours of their departure from Tehran.

Mr Pyke, who comes from Hereford, was arrested in August, 19808, at Tehran Airport as he was about to leave Iran. The Iranians first said that he would be charged with spying but he was later accused of financial irregularities.

During his stay, first in the notorious Evin prison in Tehran and later at Karaj jail 2 5miles west of there, Mr Pyke solved crossword puzzles in *The Times*. He was not allowed to play cards because they are against the laws of Islam.

Two other Britons remain in Iranian jails, Mr Frank Skinner, a 53-year-old flight engineer, arrested last April after the illegal departure of another Briton, and Mr John Allen Bowden, a 46-year-old company director, has been held since October 26 accused of currency irregularities.

Army drives away Israelis blocking Sinai withdrawal

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Feb 2

Israeli defence forces today for the first time forcibly removed Jewish militants attempting to obstruct the withdrawal from Sinai.

A few hundred soldiers closed in at daybreak on several score militants who had camped since Sunday near Kuseima in the desert and prevented workers from dismantling a water pipeline. The militants were sent by bus to Beersheba while the workers continued to dig up pipes under Army protection.

The use of force seemed to represent a policy shift since Mr Sharon, the Defence Minister, had refused to sanction it when militants in the Yamit area prevented the salvage of infrastructure from a cluster of settlements near the coast.

The defence forces radio station reported that the troops arrived at daybreak, destroyed the encampment and led women and children to buses. Men who had chained themselves to tractors were released and carried to the buses. Two men put up resistance and had to be overpowered. Some of the evacuees complained they had been beaten by soldiers.

The pipeline from Israel used to serve military bases in Sinai. The pipes are being relaid in the Negev to supply the new bases being built there.

☐ Lord Carrington's official visit to Israel, the first by a Foreign Office minister during Mrs Thatcher's Government, is to take place on March 31 and April 1.

Heikal interview, page 5

John Manning

Double take: Princess Michael of Kent joins Sachiko Komatsu, aged 2, in admiring a portrait of the young Japanese girl by Joyce Wyatt at the opening of the 121st exhibition of the Society of Women Artists at the Mall Galleries, London, yesterday.

Commons leader goes on radio to defend speech

Continued from page 1

bridge last Friday, in which he did indeed appear to be *attempting to dampen* any expectations of significant reflation.

Mr Pym commented: "The Chancellor would be the first to say that the task ahead of us is very formidable indeed. He knows that perfectly well."

Showing no inclination to soften the line taken in his speech, Mr Pym said: "We have to understand as a nation, what a formidable task lies ahead. That does not in any way mean that we do not have to take account in any assessment we make of the good news because a lot is going well for us. Equally, it is helpful for people to realize what a formidable job we have in the next few years."

Sir Geoffrey and all the commentators had said the recovery would be slow and gradual and would begin at a time when unemployment was still rising. "Therefore it is very important for people's expectations not to be so high that they are only confronted by disappointment.

"I do not want people to think that there is a quick and easy answer. We said at the last election that it would take a long time—it would take two Parliaments

"If one is not careful, one can give the impression that due to the rise which is now coming, albeit slowly, suddenly everything will fall into place and everything will be fine. Yes, it will in the end but it will take time and we will have to build gradually."

Mr Pym stressed during the radio interview his belief that the Government would be more likely to win the next election if it avoided soft options and the temptation to go for quick reflation to gain popularity.

"The British people have a very realistic view of their politicians and the world in which they live.

In the Commons Mrs Thatcher dealt lightly with Mr Foot's attempts to embarrass her over Mr Pym's remarks. Quoting selectively from it she said that Mr Pym had made an excellent speech. She convinced few of her hearers that she meant it.

Minister criticizes Tory rebels over lost £65m

Continued from page 1

additional tax of £50m from the corporate sector."

Mr Jeffery Rooker, Labour MP for Birmingham, Perry Barr, said: "This is the biggest backbench revolt on a money measure since this Government took office. I am pretty certain that they will try to reverse it when the Bill goes back to the House for report stage."

Mr Hugh Rossi, Minister for Social Security, had argued that the amendment was a breach of the principle that employees and employers should be treated in like manner.

He also said that the financial consequences of the amendment were too heavy to be acceptable. But his main argument against the amendment was that the change would impose a heavy administrative burden on employers, involving additional calculations, additional records, additional mistakes, additional visits by inspectors, and the possibility of doubt being cast over some employees' entitlement to benefit.

After the defeat, the minister said: "The financial effect of the amendment is to reduce the amount of money going into the National Insurance Fund by £65m, of which the greatest beneficiaries will be the larger companies who, on our calculations, stand to gain a windfall of £55m.

"What I will plan to do now is to see if there is a way of meeting the will of the committee without imposing additional administrative burdens, and helping the small businesses in particular, without denying the fund such a loss which goes to the larger companies."

Conservatives on the committee were clearly not convinced that small business would suffer. Mr Shepherd pointed out more than once that his amendment had the support of the Small Business Bureau, which is located in Conservative Party headquarters at Smith Square, and the Federation of Self-Employed and Small Businesses.

Parliamentary report, page 4
Pym's game, page 8

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Minister for the Good News fluffs his brief

Mrs Margaret Thatcher went out of her way at Prime Minister's Question Time to give the most public approval to a controversial speech made the previous evening by Mr Francis Pym, the Leader of the Commons. Mr Pym, then, is in the most serious trouble with the Prime Minister.

That much was obvious as, challenged by Mr Michael Foot to comment on Mr Pym's "remarkable speech", she plunged on and on about how Mr Pym's views were in no way dissimilar to her own. Seated only two places from her on the front bench, the Leader of the House nodded away in agreement, we shall assume, rather than in his sleep. The latest Cabinet split was plain for all to see.

Mr Pym's speech was delivered to the annual dinner of the Allied Brewery Trades Association. None the less, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, we shall assume that at the time of the oration complained of he was a fit person to be in charge of the speech he was driving.

As well as being Leader of the House, Mr Pym is something called "Minister with responsibility for the coordination of government information". That means he is Minister of Propaganda, the job held under various governments over the years by, among others, Mr William Deedes, Sir Angus Maude and Dr Josef Goebbels. Another way of describing his function is that Mr Pym is Minister for the Good News. He is always issuing other ministers with pieces of good news to put in their speeches.

The message of his speech to the brewers, shorn of its inessentials and routine qualifications, was that there was no hope. This is contrary to government policy; the Government line on hope is that there is still a lot of it about. In the short run, living standards would fall, Mr Pym had said. "Just to hold on to something like our present living standards" would be a bit of a struggle.

Furthermore, this would be the situation "for some time to come". Also, unemployment would not soon drop from three million.

The Leader of the House turned up on the Government front bench yesterday as if nothing much had happened.

He sat in on questions to the employment ministers. Mr Eric Varley, the shadow Secretary of Employment, asked Mr Norman Tebbit, the minister, if he agreed with what Mr Pym had said. Mr Tebbit said he did. Mr Pym nodded. The split thickened, so to speak.

The Prime Minister arrived. Mr Foot rose, festooned with press cuttings concerning Mr Pym's speech. (The romantically newsprint-stained, shabby, former journalist Mr Foot is probably the last party leader to regard the press as the best source of news, quirky information on contemporary events, and occasional giggles. God bless him. When he goes the dark night of television current affairs will close in on our leaders for good. Pray God I do not live to see it.)

Where was I? As yet A festooned Foot rose. What about that speech then, eh? That was the gist of his question.

"I am delighted to respond", the Prime Minister replied, as if reading from a prepared text. "I thought my Right Hon Friend made an excellent speech last night. I would like to quote from it (lengthy selective quotation from routine pro-Government passage inserted by all wets just before and just after they denounce Government) . . . It is very good, isn't it? May I go on? (more of same)."

By now the Labour benches were ringing with "Read us the other bit" and similar rough cries. Mrs Thatcher redoubled her reading of the more arid passages of this manifestly wet work. "It's so good I might have written it myself", she concluded and sat down.

Mr Foot got up again. If what Mrs Thatcher had said were so, why did the *Daily Telegraph* give the speech such prominence?

"Because it was a good speech," Mrs Thatcher replied, for she had to say something, did she not? Dr David Owen, for the social democrats, asked about the falling living standards mentioned by Mr Pym. This enabled Mrs Thatcher to quote several years in which living standards both declined and Dr Owen was in the government. This rightly caused her spirits, and those of her supporters, to rise enormously.

But there was no escaping the fact that, at only the half-way stage in the life of the Government, Mr Pym had made the sort of speech which his predecessor, Dr Goebbels, may have made around the beginning of April, 1945.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, Captain General of the Royal Marines, attends Mountbatten Concert given by the Massed Bands of the Royal Marines, Albert Hall, 7.15.

Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips attend Court dinner of the Worshipful Company of Farriers at Innholders Hall, London, 7.20.

Exhibitions

Stanley Spencer in the Shipyard—drawings by Stanley Spencer and photographs by Cecil Beaton, The Minories, Colchester, 11 to 5.

Prints by Ceri Richards, Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast, 10 to 5.

Japanese Festivals — exhibition for children on Japanese life and traditions, Haggs Castle Museum, 100 St Andrews Drive, Glasgow, 10 to 5.15.

Royal wedding dress and presents, Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh, 9.30 to 4.30.

Last chance to see

Work by Hugh Mackinnon, New Grafton Gallery, 42 Old Bond Street, W1, 10 to 6.

British Toymakers Guild's Toy Fair, 240 The Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19, 11 to 5.30.

Music

Haydn's The Creation, Northern Sinfonia of England, City Hall, Newcastle, 7.45.

Concert, Academy of Ancient Music, chamber music recital, St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Portsmouth, 7.30.

Japan exhibition

Admission to the Great Japan Exhibition at Royal Academy reduced from £3 to £2 on rail strike days. Open 10 to 6 daily; exhibition close February 21.

Auction viewings

Bonhams, Montpelier Street: European oil paintings, 9 to 3; English and Continental furniture, 9 to 3. **Christie's, King Street**: Eastern textiles, rugs and carpets; Continental 19th and 20th century pictures; English and Continental glass, all 9 to 4.45. **Christie's, South Kensington**: Arms and armour, 9.15 to 12; mechanical music, 9.15 to 4.30; European ceramics, 9.15 to 4.30. **Phillips, Blenheim Street**: Scientific instruments, 9 to 12; specialized Great Britain stamps; silver and gold boxes, both 9 to 4.30. **Sotheby's, Bond Street**: Old Master and modern prints, carpets, 9.30 to 4.30. **Sotheby's, Belgravia**: toys and dolls; Oriental works of art, both 9.30 to 4.30.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, remaining stages. Private Bill: Lloyd's Bill, report stage. Lords (2.30): Debate on the economy.

The pound

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	1.77	1.69
Austria Sch	32.15	30.15
Belgium Fr	85.75	81.75
Canada $	2.32	2.23
Denmark Kr	14.88	14.18
Finland Mkk	8.70	8.25
France Fr	11.58	10.98
Germany DM	4.56	4.31
Greece Dr	125.00	116.00
Hongkong $	11.25	10.65
Ireland Pt	1.29	1.24
Italy Lir	2435.00	2335.00
Japan Yn	458.00	432.00
Netherlands Gld	5.00	4.74
Norway Kr	11.54	10.94
Portugal Esc	132.50	124.50
South Africa Rd	2.04	1.89
Spain Pta	195.00	186.00
Sweden Kr	11.12	10.54
Switzerland Fr	3.66	3.44
USA $	1.91	1.84
Yugoslavia Dnr	105.00	96.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

London: The FT Index closed down 1.0 at 571.0.

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The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,746

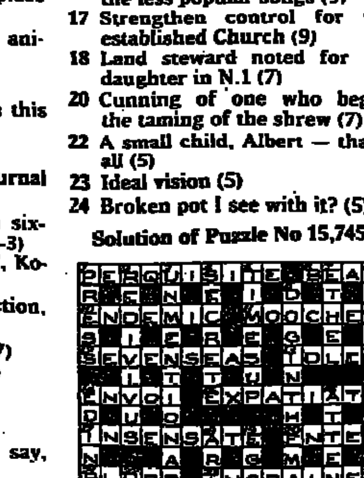
ACROSS

1 Head commonly provides milk (7)
5 Father goes to seaweed conference (7)
9 Tearful, she, in returning royal award (5)
10 A number hope only to compose for it (9)
11 Jinnee in a bottle — some catch for him (9)
12 Having knowledge of a place that had a bed (5)
13 Stops controlling these animals returning south (5)
15 Times past, by Jove! (9)
18 See some connexion with this office (9)
19 Transport bars (5)
21 Fibre revealed by a nocturnal painter (5)
23 Female attire worn by a six-footer, one that hovers (6-3)
25 "Is it weakness of ——?", Ko-Ko asked the tom-tit (9)
26 Tree's new production, smooth and concise (5)
27 Purchase Centre Point? (7)
28 Fireside cricket writer (7)

DOWN

1 Baby Bunting, some say, found in this tree? (7)
2 In order, maybe, to walk here (9)
3 Does she give her pledge to a relative? (5)
4 The figures on the face of it sound fair (9)
5 Support for power suppliers (5)
6 Drink to one touching down from the Arctic Circle? (9)
7 Alto or tenor, Cesario? (5)
8 Forest dweller finds seafood expensive, I hear (3-4)
14 Shopkeeper outside Hove? Not quite, duck (9)
16 Like unexplored territory or the less popular songs (9)
17 Strengthen control for the established Church (9)
18 Land steward noted for his daughter in N.1 (7)
20 Cunning of one who began the taming of the shrew (7)
22 A small child, Albert — that's all (5)
23 Ideal vision (5)
24 Broken pot I see with it? (5)

Solution of Puzzle No 15,745



Travel: Rail, road, sea, air

Pre-recorded travel information on Traveline—rail: 01-246 8030; road: 01-246 8031; sea: 01-246 8032; air: 01-246 8033.

Rail

No trains today or tomorrow; no very early trains, and cancellations throughout the day likely on Friday. For times of first trains call station enquiries, which will be manned today and tomorrow, or Traveline (see above).

Emergency parking

Emergency car parks for private vehicles (open all week during rail disruption) include: Serpentine Road, Rotton Row, North Carriage Drive, West Carriage Drive and South Carriage Drive, Hyde Park; Inner and Outer Circle and Chester Road, Regents Park; Albert Memorial Road, Kensington Gardens; Birdcage Walk, St James's Park; Battersea Park; Victoria Park, E9; Peckham Rye fairground. If central parking areas full by 12.30, parking mal be allowed in The Mall (Horse Ride) and Constitution Hill (Green Park Side).

For NCP space availability, call 01-499 7050.

Accommodation

The London Tourist Board has made special arrangements to help workers to book hotels in the city; call 01-730 3450 before 5.30; or bookings can be made in person at National Tourist Information Centre, Victoria Station, from 9 am to 8.30 pm.

Sea

Because of Sealink dispute, no Newhaven/Dieppe ferries operating. For special coaches to ports during rail disruptions, call 01-828 4142 or 01-834 2345, or Sealink offices at ports.

Roads

Congestion likely during peak hours because of rail strike; the AA advises commuters to share cars if possible, and to stagger departure times.

Police advise learner drivers to avoid all main routes.

Roadworks

Wales and West: A35: Temporary diversion near Fountain roundabout, Christchurch, Dorset. A31: Roadworks near St Leonards, Dorset. A420: Width reductions at Lawrence Hill, Bristol.

North: A56: Roadworks at Hoole roundabout, Chester. A684: Delays at Leeming Bar, N Yorkshire.

Scotland: A832: Temporary lights between Achnasheen and Achanalt. A95: Temporary signals near Grantown-on-Spey, Inverness-shire. A92: Single line traffic NE of Ellon, Aberdeenshire.

Information supplied by the AA.

Air

Possible delays to passengers at Orly and Charles de Gaulle airports in Paris because of customs workers' work-to-rule.

Getting to airports

Heathrow: Flightline 767 from Victoria Coach Station; A1 bus from Victoria Station; A2 bus from Paddington Station; Underground train (Piccadilly line).

Gatwick: Flightline 777 from Victoria Coach Station.

Luton: Flightline 757 from Eccleston Bridge, Victoria.

National Express Air-Coaches run regular services to Heathrow and Gatwick from many provincial centres; also to some regional airports. Details from accredited travel agents, National Bus Company offices, or, call 01-730 0202.

Anniversaries

Births: Felix Mendelssohn, Hamburg, 1809; Elizabeth Blackwell, first woman doctor of medicine, Counterslip, Bristol, 1821; Walter Bagehot, Langport, Somerset, 1826. George Crabbe died at Trowbridge, Wilts, 1832.

Sporting fixtures

Football: League Cup semi-final first leg: West Bromwich Albion v Tottenham Hotspur.

Racing: Meetings at Windsor, 2; and Hereford, 12.15.

Sport on TV

BBC 1: 9.25 Sportsnight—World Championship Boxing, European Figure Skating Championships, World Ski-ing Championships.

BBC 2: 7.40, The Master Game—Chess.

The papers

Strongly condemning a government report calling for registration of journalists and the break-up of major South African newspaper groups, the Rand Daily Mail yesterday warned its readers this would mean "a massive, perhaps fatal assault on your right to be kept informed of what is happening in your country".

In a leader strongly critical of Tory economic policies, and of President Reagan for copying them, the Daily Mirror says "he has three years still to realize his errors—Mrs Thatcher has not".

The Daily Express praises Mr Pym for being truthful and realistic about our economic situation.

The Times list of best-selling books

Midnight's Children	Salman Rushdie	Cape	£7.50
Whitaker's Almanack 1982		Whitaker	£9
Royal Wedding	Audrey Daly	Ladybird	50p
France à la Carte	Richard Binns	Chiltern House	£2.50
The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail	Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh and Henry Lincoln	Cape	£8.95
Tilly Trotter Widowed	Catherine Cookson	Heinemann	£7.50
Fighter Pilot	Colin Strong and Duff Hart Davis	Macdonald	£8.95
Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book		Mitchell Beazley	£3.95
Guinness Book of Records	edited by Norris McWhirter	Guinness	£4.95
Indecent Obsession	Colleen McCullough	Macdonald	£6.95

The Times list is based on trade sales through Hammick's to 400 bookshops and verified retail sales through eight Hammick's bookshops and 20 others.

Weather

Pressure will be low to W of Britain and high to E, with a strong S airflow over all the country.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, E England, East Anglia: Mostly dry, bright intervals; wind S, fresh; max temp 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).

Central S, NW England, W Midlands, N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: Cloudy, rain spreading from SW, clearer later; wind S, strong; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

E Midlands, Central N, NE England: Mostly cloudy, a little rain in places; wind S, strong; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales: Rain, then showers; wind S, strong, gales on exposed coasts; max temp 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).

Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, NE Scotland, Moray Firth, Orkney: Dry at first, a little rain or drizzle later; wind S to SE, strong; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).

SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland: Cloudy, rain spreading from S, turning showery; wind S to SE, strong to gale; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

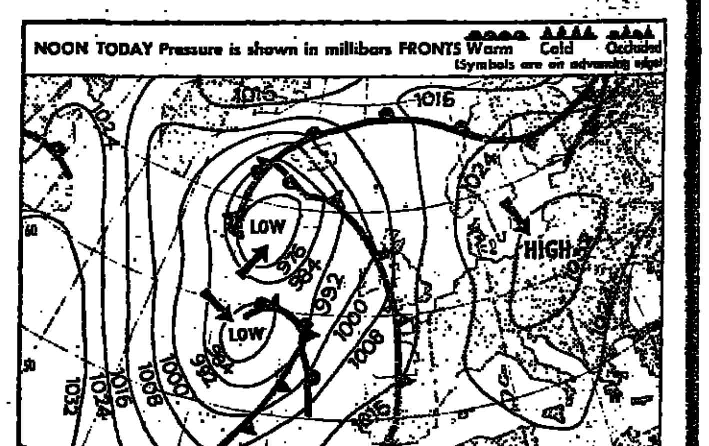
Shetland: Mostly dry, rather cloudy; wind S to SE, strong to gale; max temp 7C (45F).

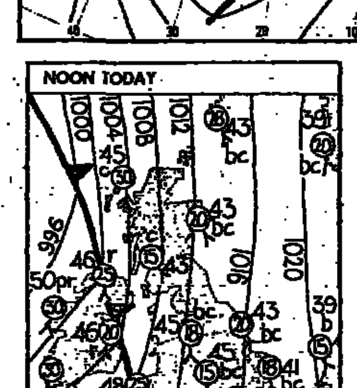
Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Rain or drizzle in places, chiefly in W; sunny intervals, very mild, rather windy.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind SE, fresh or strong; sea moderate or rough. English Channel (E): Wind SE, fresh or strong, perhaps gale; sea rough. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind SE, veering SW, fresh or strong, occasionally gale at first; sea rough or very rough.

Sun rises: 7.36 am. Sun sets: 4.53 pm.
Moon rises: 12.03 pm. Moon sets: 2.49 am.
Full moon: February 8.

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded (Symbols are on advancing edge)





b—blue sky; bc—blue sky & cloud; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; pr—periodical rain with snow. Wind speed in mph.

Lighting up time

London 5.23 pm to 7.05 am
Bristol 5.33 pm to 7.14 am
Edinburgh 5.20 pm to 7.32 am
Manchester 5.25 pm to 7.20 am
Penzance 5.49 pm to 7.22 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	c	7	45	Guernsey	f	8	46
Birmingham	f	8	46	Inverness	c	8	46
Blackpool	c	7	45	Jersey	f	8	46
Bristol	f	9	48	London	f	8	46
Cardiff	f	8	46	Manchester	f	8	46
Edinburgh	c	8	46	Newcastle	c	8	46
Glasgow	c	8	46	Ronaldsway	c	7	45

London

Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm, 9C (48F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 4C (39F). Humidity: 6 pm, 68 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 6.6hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,018.5 millibars, falling. 1,000 millibars=29.53in.

Highest and lowest

Highest day temp: Falmouth 11C (52F); lowest day max: Bridlington, Lowestoft, Manston 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Eskdalemuir 0.18in; highest sunshine: Folkestone, Hastings 8.4hr.

Satellite predictions

Figures give time of visibility, where rising, maximum elevation, and direction of setting. Asterisk denotes entering or leaving eclipse.

MANCHESTER: [illegible]

High tides

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aberdeen	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Avonmouth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Belfast	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cardiff	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Devonport	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dover	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Falmouth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Glasgow	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Harwich	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Holyhead	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hull	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ilfracombe	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Leith	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Liverpool	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lowestoft	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Margate	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Milford Haven	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Newquay	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oban	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Penzance	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Portland	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Portsmouth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Shoreham	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Southampton	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swansea	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tees	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Walton-on-the-Naze	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Around Britain

[illegible]

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

Focus on NIGERIA

Oil has made Nigeria the richest nation in Africa in terms of gnp, but it also has the largest number of mouths to feed. Godfrey Morrison takes stock of the Federal Government's record since the return to civilian rule in 1979

Two years after the return to civilian rule Nigeria has *weathered political and economic* difficulties in a way which shows that most Nigerians are determined to keep this huge country united and assume its natural leadership role in Africa.

Judging from results so far it is clear that the military were *wise* to break the country up into 19 states and that the framers of the constitution of the second republic were wise to adopt an American-style constitution which separates the powers of the executive, the legislature and the judiciary.

Westminster-style parliamentary government, introduced by the British at independence in 1960, lasted a mere six years, to be followed by military rule and a bloody civil war.

Nothing is certain in politics but the present constitution, by diffusing power, both at the centre and outwards to the states, at least gives greater scope for local political ambition and reduces the inevitability of political confrontation in a country where ethnic loyalty remains a potent force in politics.

Nigeria's importance is not simply its oil wealth but its population size. Its ninety-odd million people make it by far Africa's largest country, most of its 19 states are as large as a medium-sized African nation.

President Shehu Shagari, who represents a link both with Nigeria's first civilian government because he first emerged as a protege of the country's first Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, and with the period of military rule because he served as a commissioner in General Gowon's government, has emerged with enhanced stature after two years as his country's leader.

He has been criticized for practising "minimum government" but he has succeeded in making the new constitution, whose separated powers were alien to Nigeria's political tradition, work in a way that a more impatient man would not have achieved.

Significantly, even governors of states ruled by the opposition parties express personal esteem for the federal leader, and 1981 *ended with a major political* victory when the federal legislature finally passed a *revenue allocation Bill*, settling the way the country's massive income — mainly from oil — should be divided between the Federal Government, the states and local government authorities.

President Shagari has ruled with certain advantages. In the first place Nigerians were tired of 13 years of military rule and were *predisposed to give the new* civilian government a fair wind so as not to present the *military with an easy excuse to* reemerge from their barracks. Second, in the elections which preceded the return of the civilians his National Party of Nigeria (NPN) emerged with by far the strongest claim to real national appeal, having won a respectable number of votes in all parts of the federation.

Initially his administration had an agreement with the Nigerian Peoples Party (NPP), led by Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, Nigeria's first president, which gave his government support in the bi-cameral federal legislature—in exchange for a number of appointments in the Government.

At mid-year this agreement fell apart but the effects have not been really serious since the administration has shown it can still get vital legislation *passed and some of the* former NPP members in the Government, notably the Foreign Minister, Professor Ishaya Audu, have remained in the Government.

More influence abroad

Internationally Nigeria, with a legitimate civilian government, inevitably carries more influence than when ruled by the military. *At the* Commonwealth Conference in Melbourne President Shagari was Africa's natural spokesman on Namibia.

At the international economic summit at Cancún he chose to speak on agriculture, a *key priority of his* Government's domestic policy, and Africa's biggest economic disaster area: its ever decreasing ability to feed itself despite plentiful cultivable land.

Nearer to home, Nigeria *has shown particular concern* with the continuing chaos in Chad, which borders the country's north-east, and where the Federal Government has now dispatched the major component of an inter-African peace force, which the Nigerians hope can restore order and prevent any further excuses for Libyan intervention.

The only other major international alarm came in May when five Nigerian soldiers were killed on the Cameroon frontier. *This* brought demands in both the press and the legislature for retaliation but the Government managed to get compensation from the Cameroonians without matters getting out of control.

Nigerians have returned to democracy with enthusiasm. Press freedom is exercised by the daily newspapers, most of which owe allegiance to one or other of the parties and engage in the most furious debate.

The judiciary has shown itself quite independent, acting against the executive in a *number* of cases, *notably* striking down the first revenue allocation Bill signed by the President, on the grounds that legislative procedures had not been properly followed.

Relations between the executive and legislative branches have not been easy, particularly in the early days of the constitution when it took President Shagari three months to persuade the Senate to approve his nominations of ministers.

Partly the friction has been because of unfamiliarity with the workings of a constitution with separated powers and in recent months there have been signs that the executive has become more skilful at lobbying. Certainly *the legislators have shown* themselves independent and voting across party lines is now common.

In economic policy the Government has placed special emphasis on agriculture with ambitious plans for a "Green Revolution" which it is hoped will restore the countryside's prosperity — and that is still where threequarters of the people live — and lead eventually to food self-sufficiency.

But the oil industry will *for the foreseeable future* remain the key to the *country's economic health*, and Nigeria's overdependence on this single product was graphically demonstrated during the year when a slump in production led to temporary fears of import controls and a massive cutback in development plans.

In the event Nigeria has weathered this crisis and by a sensible pricing policy has been able to bring production back on target.

There are several serious constraints to economic growth, the most obvious being a lack of trained manpower at almost all levels, and infrastructural failures in sectors such as electricity supply, water and telecommunications.

Britain's stake in Nigeria's future is large. By far the largest foreign investor, the British are also the country's main supplier of goods, accounting for about 20 per cent of total imports.

Official relations, soured in 1979 by the nationalization of BP, are now again cordial following agreement on compensation and a number of positive developments.

That democratic rule has returned to Nigeria has been widely welcomed in neighbouring countries, in many of which there are renewed *stirrings for greater freedom*.

This is not to say that Nigerians are universally popular in the region. Both because of the country's power and the often harsh welcome accorded to visitors — both black *and white — to* Lagos, the charge of arrogance is often laid at their door.

But here too there are hopeful signs. Nigerians themselves are increasingly critical of the hostile attitude often shown to visitors to Lagos, and there are signs of an improvement in the law and order situation in the capital.

There is also criticism of the pervasive nature of "dash" and corruption. In an editorial commenting on President Shagari's budget proposals in December, which included a reimposition of compulsory inspection of some categories of imports, hitherto exempt, the *pro-government newspaper, New Nigerian*, commented baldly: "As is to be expected with Nigerians virtually every privilege of a financial nature granted to individuals or corporate bodies had been grossly abused."

Those who are *impatient* with President Shagari's progress in dealing with these and Nigeria's other problems are probably being unrealistic, given the huge size of the country, its diverse nature, and its tumultuous recent history.

It could be that President Shagari's restrained style is just what the country needs.

As one young Ibo businessman put it to me: "Shagari is very cool. He has a good temperament. You could have a *more dynamic leader, but* then everybody would get excited".

Excitement is just about the last thing that Africa's giant needs.

A group of traditional rulers in obvious good humour leave a meeting with President Alhaji Shehu Shagari in Lagos. Although they have lost their constitutional powers, they are still consulted and continue to play an important part in Nigeria's complex political and social life.

On other pages

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Africa's leader and a growing force on the world stage

Nigeria emerged slowly on to the world scene but it is now vigorously striving to fulfil a role that measures up to its wealth and position as the *most* populous African state.

Independence came in 1960, three years after Ghana, at a time when Kwame Nkrumah was listened to as the voice of Africa, to the resentment of many Nigerians. The first Prime Minister, Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, was a cautious man who on a famous occasion replied to Nkrumah's talk of internationalism by saying: "Let us put our own houses in order."

Then in 1966 came the spasms of two military coups followed by the agony of the long civil war. This brought an unwelcome prominence in world affairs and had a lasting effect on foreign relations.

The Soviet Union gained instant popularity by supplying without hesitation support and arms. The British Government was thought to be lukewarm, though correct, *and this, com*bined with the huge and vocal pro-Biafra lobby, caused illwill that lasted for years. America similarly lost favour. In Africa, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Zambia and Tanzania all recognized the rebel régime, which punched a hole in Nigeria's Africa policy.

General Gowon, the great reconciler after the war, also worked hard on the international scene, travelling to Moscow, Peking, Canada and the Caribbean, and accomplishing a brilliantly healing state visit to Britain in 1973. He also played a crucial role in the creation in May, 1975, of the Economic Community of West African States, which has proved the most successful grouping in Africa and remains a major factor in Nigerian foreign policy.

General Murtala Mohammed, from July, 1975, and General Olusegun Obasanjo, from February, 1976, continued to make Nigeria more of a force in the world.

The most effective example of Nigerian pressure came in Angola when Portugal was getting out after the Lisbon coup of 1974. Much of the rest of Africa, and notably America, was backing a proposal for a coalition administration drawn from the three main contending parties. Nigeria (once General Gowon was off the scene) came out in favour of recognizing the MPLA as the *sole legitimate government. The* rest of Africa gradually followed suit.

The Nigerian military rulers also played a part in helping to bring Zimbabwe to independence, though how great a role is a matter of controversy.

The big gesture came on the eve of the Commonwealth Heads of State conference in Lusaka in August, 1979, when Nigeria suddenly sequestrated British Petroleum's assets. This was meant *as* a warning *shot* across the Conservative Party's bows. Whether this was necessary or effective is debatable. It was certainly a claim to the leadership of Africa.

Since the civilians returned to power *in October, 1979*, President Shagari has been pressing that claim with increasing credibility. When Dr Chester Crocker, the United States Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, was travelling around drumming up *support for the new* Namibia proposals, one of his most important stops was at Lagos.

The ending of apartheid in South Africa has always been a main aim of Nigeria.

President Shagari, the most gentle and diplomatic of men, found it necessary to raise at a Buckingham Palace banquet the displeasure Africans felt over the continuing British investment, trade and other links with South Africa. *Similarly, in a speech to* the Foreign Policy Association in New York in October last year, President Shagari said: "We in Nigeria feel that the history of your country places on the Government and people of the United States a great responsibility to use your powerful international economic and financial position to discourage and, eventually, destroy apartheid in South Africa.

"The struggle of African peoples and governments to free their continent of apartheid should not be seen in terms of ideological differences between the East and the West. To allow conflict in *ideology* to determine your response to the evils of *apartheid would be an unfor*tunate misreading of the psychology of the African. Your policy towards South Africa has been largely dominated by a single-minded pursuit of economic and strategic considerations. This, in my view, can at best offer only a temporary advantage, for in the final analysis only a South Africa which accepts majority rule can truly offer a lasting guarantee to the security of your economic and strategic interests."

Relations with the rest of Africa have always formed the cornerstone of Nigeria's foreign policy, and things have not always been smooth.

Keeping peace in Chad

Chad, which has a short common frontier across Lake Chad, has long been a source of pain. Nigeria has been the centre of much peace-keeping effort. It was a Lagos agreement which promised so much two years ago; in 1979 Nigerian troops formed a peace-keeping force and were forced to withdraw in failure. Nigerian troops are now again providing the major part of an Organization of Africa Unity force, which is *under* a Nigerian general.

The Chad problem has illustrated Nigeria's deep distrust of Libya and (in the past) her coolness towards France and the Francophone African states. Relations with Paris are now much warmer. Professor Ishaya Audu, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, has paid most successful visits to Paris and has given the impression at times of being an ally of France against Libya.

The Western Sahara problem has also engaged much Nigerian attention, again with more frustration than success. Relations with its neighbour Cameroon deteriorated sharply early this year when several Nigerian soldiers were killed in a border incident and President Ahidjo was slow about making adequate apologies or reparation.

President Shagari was *under great pressure*, particularly from the military, to take *retaliatory action, but* he resisted this. The OAU was little help and the president in protest stayed away from the OAU summit in Nairobi.

This was a most surprising decision as Nigeria has always played a big part in all OAU activities. Many diplomats and observers in Nairobi speculated that the President must have some pressing domestic reason for staying away, but this has always been denied by the Nigerians. In the event the *president's restraint paid off* and Cameroon promised proper investigation, apology and reparation.

Nigeria made its displeasure known to Ghana after the Rawlings coup in 1979 and the subsequent execution of former heads of state; oil supplies were cut off, officially because of a technical fault.

Similarly, after the Master-Sergeant Doe coup in Liberia, the Nigerians signified their disapproval by refusing to allow the Master-Sergeant to land at Lagos to attend an OAU meeting.

There is much talk of "using the oil weapon", but it would be suicidal (particularly in times of an oil glut) to interfere for political reasons with a major customer like the United States.

Recent analysis published in Lagos has shown that Nigerians are well aware that having wealth and a large army does not, of itself, make one an effective power in foreign affairs: wielding a big stick can be counter-productive.

Fortunately, the country has in Professor Audu a former academic who brings great subtlety of mind to the position of Minister of Foreign Affairs and a President who is a natural diplomat and who takes a close and informed interest in foreign matters.

Kenneth Mackenzie

Under the 1979 constitution the 19 state governments have wide-ranging functions. **David Williams** discusses their relationship to the Federal Government in Lagos and **Karan Thapar** explains the tribal divisions that still threaten national unity.

State versus nation

Only seven of the elected Governors, the "chief executives", of Nigeria's 19 states belong to President Shehu Shagari's party, the NPN. In these seven the NPN also controls a majority in the legislatures; it also controls the legislature in an eighth state, Kaduna, although there the Governor belongs to the PRP. The remaining eleven governorships, with the state assembly majorities, are divided between the other four registered parties, all of which are, to some degree, hostile to the NPN. The UPN has five states, NPP three, GNPP two, and PRP one.

Under the 1979 civilian constitution the state governments have extensive functions. They are responsible, for example, for primary education and share responsibility with the Federal Government for other aspects of education. They are responsible for health services, agricultural extension work, and roads, except federal trunk roads.

They can sponsor scientific research. And while the Federal Government is responsible for major economic development and for direct economic relations with foreign governments or international bodies, a state government can undertake economic development of any kind, except mining, within its boundaries, make contracts with foreign firms and, under federal *sponsorship*, seek foreign loans or assistance. State governments are also responsible for supervision of local government within their areas, and for matters concerning chieftancy, still a potent influence in Nigeria.

The President, although Chief Executive of the Federation, has no formal control over the governors. He is, however, responsible for the Nigeria police, who constitute a single force throughout the federation, and for the maintenance of public order, although state governments are given subordinate authority in this.

He is responsible, too, for the operational use of the armed forces. The President can also under most exceptional and restricted circumstances, declare, in any part of the Federation, a state of emergency under which the National Assembly could supersede a state house of assembly and the President exercise executive authority in a state. A governor is also subject to the same legal restraints under the constitution as is the President — and to public "media" criticism — in other states if not his own. One governor and one deputy governor have already been impeached and removed, although in each case a majority of the state legislature concerned was politically hostile to the accused official.

President Alhaji Shehu Shagari: enhanced stature.

Some see the apparent independence of the governors and the domination of a majority of state governments by parties opposed to the President as threatening partial paralysis of the federal system. Others see the diffusion of some degree of power among all five registered parties as a safeguard for democracy in a continent where *total* exclusion from power has often tempted parties into conspiratorial courses. And since the NPN has no automatic majority even in the National Assembly, Nigeria, in spite of the nature of some of its state regimes is far removed from the one-party system which many suppose to be typical of African countries.

The Federal Government, however, has considerably more influence over state governments than might appear. In particular all state governments depend for some 80 to 90 per cent of their revenues (including the statutory allocation to local governments) on federally-collected taxes. These allocations to state governments are guaranteed by law and no federal administration, certainly not that of Alhaji Shehu Shagari, would want to obstruct payment of these, even to states politically hostile. But, at least until recently, the Federal Government has also made very substantial non-statutory grants to state governments which all normally overspend their budgets. And every state wants federal institutions and projects to be located inside its boundaries and to secure federal backing for loans.

The formula under which federally-collected revenue is divided between the federation, the states and local government is an obvious source of political discord. A new formula, giving the states a much bigger share of this revenue (45 per cent), including the allocation to local government, has now been agreed by the National Assembly, although states' spokesman were demanding more.

For many months after his installation as President, governors belonging to the UPN appeared, like the party's leader, Chief Awolowo, close runner-up in the presidential election, to be reluctant to acknowledge Alhaji Shehu Shagari's position as Head of State. One WPN governor was publicly rebuked by the President for showing lack of respect to his office. The enthusiastic reception however, given to the President by the UPN Governor and the people of Oyo state during his official visit there last year marked a change.

This was confirmed this year by the invitation to the President from the UPN Governor of Lagos state—the state in which the President's party, NPN, made its worst showing in the general election—to inaugurate work on the *proposed* overhead railways for which federal help is essential. The President's relations with governors belonging to hostile parties can never be easy; but by his quiet determination Alhaji Shehu Shagari appears now to have established himself as the older statesman to whom all the governors look for advice and help.

A demand for smaller states

The states provide another, quite different, problem for the President. Demand for division of the existing states into smaller ones is now a major feature in Nigerian politics, cutting across parties. If the National Assembly supports the most insistent demands and is able to satisfy the intentionally Byzantine provisions of the constitution concerning creation of states, there could be as many as 40.

The demand arises partly from the belief, strongly held by many groups, that their particular area is neglected by the Government of the state where they now find themselves, and that they are discriminated against in official employment, etc, since another group is held to dominate the state. For politicians of all parties, however, the creation of new states has great attractions. For each, regardless of size—unless the constitution is amended—would be entitled to five seats in the Senate and to a federal ministry. Each would have a governor, commissioners (ministers), numerous state boards and representation in various federal organizations. And apart from any funds the Federal Government might feel obliged to provide as subvent long to the new administrations, each would be entitled by law to its share of federally-collected funds allocated to states, which as we have said, already constitute the main source of state finance.

The constitution, whose complicated provisions about the procedure for creating new states are not entirely clear, offers no criteria which the areas concerned must meet to qualify as states.

Evidently concerned that if the politicians impose no check on the new state demands unviable units might proliferate — and in concert they can, whether he likes it or not, operate the constitution's *provisions* to create new states — President Shehu Shagari has invited the parties to produce a *realistic programme* for state creation. How many new states he has in mind is not *known*; but everybody agrees that a small number, perhaps five, are, if not necessary, perhaps inevitable. The parties, including the NPN, however, are reluctant at this stage to commit themselves to a limit. The issue may complicate the 1983 general election. Its resolution also depends on the National Assembly's assent to the Electoral Bill now before it.

Further division of the existing states would make the Federal Government, in theory, even more powerful than it is, by increasing the number of its clients. But if it meant that an increasing proportion of a national revenue which has recently declined is spent on administration, without a corresponding stimulus to productive economic activity, while the constituent units of the federation became even less competent than they are now to discharge their functions, the federation as a whole would be gravely weakened.

The author was editor of West Africa *1949-78.*

Old divisions that die hard

The persisting threat to Nigerian unity is the seemingly ineradicable tribalism that underlies every political, social and often economic development. With more than 200 tribes and at least 100 different languages, with almost institutionalized distrust between its three main regional population groups, the Hausas, Ibos and Yorubas, and with irresponsible politicians only too happy to exploit ethnic divisions, the conscious need to create one nation remains the single most important priority of the new civilian government.

Though the fall of Biafra marked the end of the Nigerian Civil War 12 years ago, the issues fought then did not perish on the battlefield. The tribal distrust, the absence of political consensus, and the many social divisions have survived. These basic Nigerian divisions, stifled for nine years under the post-war military dictatorships, are today emerging through the widening cracks that have begun to scar the two-year-old democracy.

These issues were most poignantly raked up in 1981 by a controversy over remarks by Malam Adamu Ciroma, the Minister of Industries. In a public speech, the Minister, a Northern Hausa Muslim, accused the Opposition Governor of Borno State of betraying the people's trust by employing non-Borno people in sensitive judicial and Cabinet posts. Referring to the Borno State Chief Justice, the chief Secretary and the Attorney General, the Minister called them "strangers" and "foreigners". The point is that they are Western Yorubas.

The incident grew out of all proportion. For the Yoruba-based Unity Party, it was conclusive proof of its favourite allegation of a self-perpetuating northern cabal controlling the country to the exclusion of all other tribal groups.

The Unity Party leader, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, has publicly and repeatedly accused the last military head of state, General Olusegun Obasanjo, of carefully contriving to hand over power to the largely northern-based National Party. He has even called on the Chief Justice of Nigeria to resign because he dismissed the chief's suit against the presidential election verdict. Although both General Obasanjo and Chief Justice Fatayi-Williams are Yoruba, they are treated by the Unity Party as traitors and "time-servers" of the northern elite.

For Malam Ciroma's own national party, the provocation of a Unity Party attack was sufficient for a strong rally to his defence. He defiantly repeated his earlier criticisms, in turn accusing the Unity Party of tribal bias for only supporting Yorubas. And while the opposition called on President Shagari to dismiss Malam Ciroma, the press hinted darkly at the possibility of another civil war.

The problem is that a Nigerian identity does not as yet fully exist. A Nigerian is first a Hausa, or an Ibo, or a Yoruba, and when the chips are down it is only tribal and ethnic securities that have stood the test.

In a very important sense, the 1979 electoral results, when after 13 years of military rule, four coups and three years of civil war, a return to civilian rule was being attempted, showed that political appeal corresponds closely with tribal affiliations and loyalty.

How the Unity Party swept into five tribal states

The three main parties, each of which won at least three of the 19 states, did best in their tribal strongholds. The Unity Party swept the five states of Yorubaland. The Ibo-based Nigerian Peoples' Party was almost unopposed in Imo and Anambra States.

The issues that have, since the election, come to be focal points of national controversy have reflected persisting tribal undertones.

Perhaps the most divisive and polarizing of these in 1981 was the revenue allocation debate. It affected the share of state funds that accrue to the federal government, the 19 state governments and more than 400 local governments. The dilemma was whether a dependent and financially weak centre is more in keeping with the spirit and concept of the Nigerian federation or whether only a strong and omnipotent federal authority can keep the union together.

Although before the year's end the issue was decided, it was not before it had been taken in vengeful litigation right up to the Supreme Court which invalidated the first revenue Act and in the process clearly exposed the fundamental lack of national political consensus which exists like a vacuum at the heart of Nigerian politics.

The various estimated 61 separate demands for new states is having a similarly divisive effect. The creation of 12 states in 1967 from the northern, western and eastern regions went a long way towards diminishing the regional solidarity that had come to threaten national unity in the tense days of the first republic (1960-66).

Historically, the seeds of trouble can be traced back to the moment in 1914 when a colony called Nigeria was created by the British. Sir Hugh Clifford, Governor of Nigeria in the 1920s, descibed the country as "a collection of independent native states, separated from one another . . . by great distances, by differences of history and tradition, and by ethnological, racial, tribal, political, social and religious barriers."

Almost inevitably, therefore, there lies at the centre of Nigerian politics today the problem of power sharing between its three main tribal groups — the very problem that led to the 1967-70 civil war.

Then the northern Muslim Hausas, who came to power at independence when a northern based and northern — dominated party formed the first free government, made the Yorubas and the Ibos, the most enterprising and educated of the tribal groups, feel cheated and suspicious of a conspiracy in the northern domination of the country.

That same perception also exists today. Although as a consequence of the civil war the new federal constitution contains an unequivocal clause demanding the "reflection of the federal character in all spheres of government activity". This policy, designed to ensure equal representation to all tribes and groups in government offices and state-owned companies, is itself a victim of its own implications. For, when this means the replacement of Yorubas in Lagos offices by Hausas, hitherto considered backward and frequently relegated, it stirs new tribal fears among the Yorubas. They see their Hausa replacements as the thin edge of a northern wedge, as the beginning of political pay offs for the men around the northern president.

This same basic distrust was repeatedly manifest in the crises which characterized the first republic. *While* the struggle for freedom had imposed a transitory and deceptive unity on the civilian politicians, once independence was attained all the dirt swept under the carpet was raked out again.

In rapid succession there was the 1962 action group crisis in the *Western Region*. The disputed censuses of 1962 and 1963, the riots of 1962-1965, the rigged general elections of 1964 and the almost totally fraudulent western regional elections a year later.

From 1966 to 1979 military rule snuffed out politics and so put a tight lid on the more obvious manifestations of tribal political alignments. But, the return to civilian rule in allowing the functioning of full and free political life has also reopened the old pandora's box of ethnic rivalries.

The irony is that whereas the strict impartiality of military dictatorship held the country united under its grip, the democratic tolerance and lenience of civilian rule could threaten the very fabric of nationhood.

A full shift, and a happy one, on the building site of the Aladja power station near Warri.

Nigeria's economy, which only six months ago looked in trouble, is now in good health and set to resume the steady growth which has made it the envy of the rest of Africa over the past decade

Oil prosperity has its drawbacks

Nigeria's main economic problem is that, like so many developing countries, its economic prospects depend on just one crop or commodity, in Nigeria's case: oil.

This single product provides more than 90 per cent of foreign exchange earnings and more than 80 per cent of government revenue, so the slightest hiccup in the volatile world oil market affects almost all sectors of economic activity in the country.

Last August oil production had fallen to 708,000 barrels a day or about one third of the 2,100,000 b/d achieved in January. This dramatic collapse in production was forced on the Nigerians because they maintained their high selling price in the face of a flat world market and determined high production rates by Saudi Arabia.

Now with orders restored in Opec ranks a price cut by the Nigerians, production is rapidly recovering and oil industry sources are predicting a return to production of over 2 million b/d early in 1982.

This should mean that there need be no serious cutback in the very ambitious development plans which are overwhelmingly dependent on oil revenues.

Because of recent oil production slump foreign exchange reserves, which stood at 5,600m naira at the end of 1980 had fallen to 4,500m naira at the end of September but the country's external finances are quite sound, with the foreign debt service ratio at a mere 5 per cent or so.

Presenting his 1982 budget proposals in December, President Shehu Shagari announced a number of measures to conserve foreign exchange: a reduction in personal and business foreign travel allowances and a reduction in allowable offshore costs for consultancy services from the present 30 per cent to 20 per cent terms of domestic finance. Next year's budget is a prudent, even conservative document since it appears to be based on the assumption of oil production running at 1,300,000 b/d at the current price of $36.50.

Production has already risen well beyond this figure so the federal Government should have no funding problems in 1982.

More worrying for the Government is the apparently unstoppable rise in the level of imports. In 1979 these ran at a monthly average level of 722m naira; and in 1981 this had risen to a monthly average of 1,200m naira.

Partly this results from the ordinary Nigerian's increased spending power and this in turn partly stems from the civilian government's more conciliatory—some manufacturers would say weaker — attitude to wage demands. In the last two years the minimum wage has risen from 70 naira to 125 naira per month.

The import bill is further inflated and government revenue reduced by smuggling which is believed to take place on a huge scale. The Government recently announced a major shake-up in the customs service and the formation of a special crack unit to deal with the problem.

A tin miner at Jos, a hill station where British expatriates play polo.

Smuggling not only deprives the Government of revenue but costs jobs. In comparative terms Nigeria now has a high-cost economy and much of the manufacturing sector can only survive behind enforced tariff walls. This has been illustrated recently by failures and layoffs in the textile industry caused by the ready availability of cheap smuggled imports.

The overall thrust of President Shagari's economic policy is to diversify away from oil into manufacturing (including steel) and agriculture, the latter being a main personal concern of the President, who spoke on the subject at the international economic summit at Cancun.

The combined effects of the oil boom and the Sahel drought virtually killed off much of Nigeria's traditional cash export industry such as groundnuts in the north but even today about three of every four Nigerians live by the land.

In the period of the fourth development plan (1981-1985) investment of $8,000m is planned in the country's green revolution, the goal being food self-sufficiency by 1985, an unattainable target since this would require an annual 8 per cent increase in production and the plan only aims at 4 per cent, which most observers believe is itself ambitious.

The federal Government's will to revolutionize Nigerian agriculture is certainly there, not only in terms of investment targets, but in measures such as allowing foreign ownership of up to 60 per cent of equity in virtually all agricultural production and processing enterprises. But the main avoidable constraint in agriculture, as in all economic sectors, ia a shortage of trained manpower.

At the very top of federal ministries and private enterprises alike are to be found a handful of Nigerian managers of the very highest quality, but below them there is a gaping void at the middle-management level.

Another constraint which is preventing the country benefiting more rapidly from its oil riches is the failure of parts of the economic infrastructure. Unreliable water supplies, frequent power cuts, and poor telecommunications all hinder economic development as does the habit of ignoring essential maintenance until plant actually breaks down.

Britain's stake in Nigeria's continued economic progress remains important national export market, making it the most important buyer of British goods outside Western Europe and the United States.

In 1980 British exports were worth about £1,200m and could top £1.5m in 1981, though up-to-date statistics are *not* available because of the strike by British civil servants in early 1981.

Strikes are now also an increasing feature of Nigerian economic life. The Central Bank says 870,000 man/days were lost in 1978, two million in 1979, and 2,350,000 in 1980.

Nigeria's oil wealth has had all sorts of unexpected results. Not only have some Nigerians become millionaires overnight, some of them via dubious deals and access to import licences, but the buying habits of ordinary Nigerians have also changed.

Ten years ago rice was a luxury item eaten perhaps at Christmas, while today it almost has the status of a staple. A similar story can be told of bread. In 1977 Nigeria imported 700,000 tonnes of wheat. In 1981 the figure was probably about 1,100,000 tonnes and this is expected to rise to two million tonnes by 1985 — a threefold rise in eight years.

It is statistics such as these — rather than the dramatic stories about Nigeria's millionaires — which point to the real change in the country's economy, and to the necessity for President Shagari's green revolution to succeed.

Godfrey Morrison

STEEL

Going full blast

At a time when most of the world's steel industry is deep in recession and contraction, the Nigerian steel industry is on the point of taking off into a huge and (it is hoped) prosperous expansion.

Last month President Shagari commissioned Africa's largest and most advanced steel plant at Aladja, near Warri, in Bendel State. And last June he laid the foundation stone of the even bigger Ajaokuta steel plant in Kwara State, which will come into production in the late 1980s.

Aladja uses the direct reduction method. Ajaokuta is based on the blast furnace process of iron making. There are also rolling mills at Oshogbo, Jos and Katsina.

The birth of the Nigerian steel industry has followed a long labour, as it were. As long ago as 1958 feasibilty studies and market surveys were being carried out.

There has also been an element of competition between the West and the Soviet block. The Nigerians might prefer to say that the birth of the industry is an example of international cooperation. It is certainly a demonstration of Nigeria's non-alignment.

A Soviet team of experts first came to Nigeria in 1967. After much investigation and debate a decision was taken in 1975 that the blast furnace plant should be set up at Ajaokuta to use iron ore from Itakpe Hills (about 64km away) and a mixture of local and imported coals.

This involves a huge investment, about N2,500m *in* the first stage of the complex alone. This will result in a production capacity of 1,300,000 tons of steel a year, increasing to 2,600,000 tons in the second stage and 5,200,000 tons in the third stage.

At first only "long products" like bars, rods and beams, mostly for the building industry, will be produced. But in the later stages "flat products" like plates and sheets will be produced.

The total completion time for the project is six and a half years, but the first rolling mills should poduce steel by June, 1983.

The Aladja project began later, although it is in production first. It is also smaller, having a peak production of 2,500,000 tons a year, with one million tons in its first phase.

It was in some ways a response to the Russian initiative. Some conservative Nigerians were concerned that so central a part of their economy should be dominated by the Soviet Union, and there was also concern in some Western quarters.

The Aladja contract was only signed in 1977, and the pace of construction has been remarkable. The consortium of companies involved are mostly German and Austrian, but there were also Indian, American and Swiss interests involved.

The international content of the Nigerian steel industry goes further. The Japanese are deeply involved in the construction of the Katsina mill; French companies dominate the civil engineering construction around Ajaokuta (although Wimpey is building a N30m training centre); and Israeli interests are also involved.

The Aladja complex will use ore imported from Liberia and Brazil. The disadvantage of the direct reduction method, and the main reason a blast furnace is being built at Ajaokuta, is that it demands a higher grade of iron ore than is at present available in Nigeria.

This means that the savings on foreign exchange are less. However, teams of geologists are hopeful that sources of higher grade ore can be developed.

The slump in the world steel market does not worry the Nigerians at all. The demand for steel within Nigeria itself is so great — nine million tons a year by 1990, according to one estimate — that even if Ajaokuta, Aladja and the three rolling mills at Oshogbo, Jos and Katsina are going full blast there will still be a need to import steel.

There are plans for a third main plant to be built some time in the future. It was originally scheduled for Port Harcourt, but rumour now suggests that it may be built at Onitsha or Asaba.

The recent drop in income from oil has placed a strain on the Government capital expenditure programme, but President Shagari and his Government have shown that they attach the greatest importance to the successful development of a Nigerian steel industry.

Kenneth Mackenzie

Godfrey Morrison looks at the problems of coping with a population approaching 100 million and *Henry Stanhope* at the strategic imbalance left over from the civil war.

Money can't buy everything

Asked how many people there were in Nigeria the European diplomat thought for a moment and then said: "a lot." This reply though at first sight unhelpful, is fair and accurate, because nobody knows what the total population now stands at. The results of successive censuses since independence have been rejected and have been the cause of major political controversy because of their implications for the ethnic balance, and therefore the political power balance, of the country.

Estimates now range anywhere between 80 and 100 million, making Nigeria by far the most populous country in Africa, and it means that more than one in every four black Africans is a Nigerian.

Population growth is estimated at somewhere between 2½ and 3 per cent per year. That Nigeria's economic planners face a daunting task, whether in the provision of health facilities, education or job opportunities, is underlined by the estimate that roughly half Nigeria's population is under the age of 15.

Nigeria's plans for the future are heavily biased towards economic growth rather than the provision of social services. Thus, though life expectancy is only 49 and the country has fewer than 60,000 hospital beds, health services will get only 3 per cent of total expenditure under the 1981-85 development plan.

More will be spent on education, the states being responsible for primary education and federal spending going mainly on higher education. Increasingly the emphasis is on vocational and technical training since Nigeria's main economic constraint is a lack of trained manpower at almost all levels.

Unlike in many African states where a chronic shortage of financial resources holds up development, in Nigeria the problem is often to spend the money available.

Universal primary education was officially introduced five years ago when enrolment rose to more than nine million compared to about 3,500,000 at the start of the decade. By 1980 about 13 million children were attending primary school and inevitably this enormous surge in attendance has led to problems. A high proportion of teachers are believed to be under-qualified and the standards of teaching are extremely low, particularly in parts of the North, which historically has always been less endowed with educational facilities. A Canadian educationist told me he had visited a primary school whose headmaster was barely able to speak English, even though this was theoretically the language of instruction of his school.

Theoretically all primary education is free, though in some states financial difficulties have led to teachers not being paid, and in some cases fees being charged.

Though three-quarters of Nigeria's people still live in the countryside the drift to the urban areas has been very rapid, making Lagos and Ibadan probably the largest cities in Africa. As a result of natural increase and urban drift, Lateef Jakande, Governor of Lagos State, has estimated that Lagos is growing by 35 people an hour.

Despite massive investment on roads and other public services, services such as electricity and water simply cannot cope with this sort of growth, so power and water cuts are an everyday feature of life in the nation's capital.

Most businesses and many private homes are equipped with their own generators but the problems of life in Lagos make Nigerians and the foreign community alike look forward to the birth of the brand new capital being built at Abuja.

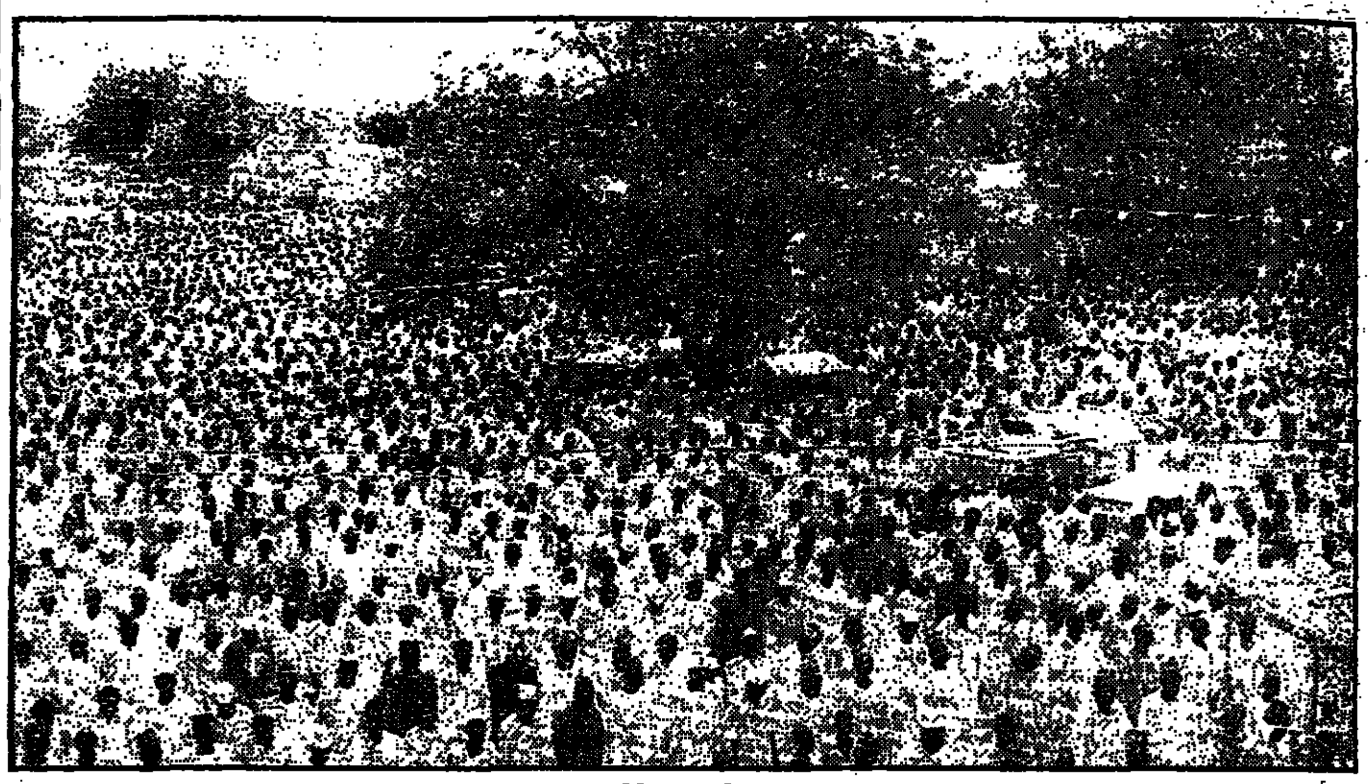
Just as Nigeria's towns act as a magnet for the country's rural population so does Nigeria's wealth for people from the rest of West Africa.

Eventually the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), of which Nigeria is a member, will officially guarantee free movement of people throughout West Africa, but even now there is much immigration to Nigeria, much of it unauthorized.

No figures are available but many thousnads of Ghanaians, Togolese and Beninois have drifted to the Lagos area. In northern Nigeria people wander to and fro acrosss frontiers with even greater abandon and it is possible to meet nomadic people who can quite honestly say that they do not know whether, for example, they are Nigerians or citizens of neighbouring Niger. Where they live depends on the time of year.

The troubles in Chad have led to a major influx of refugees to north-eastern Nigeria around Maiduguri, some reports putting the figure as high as 100,000.

Not that the traffic is all one way. There are also many Nigerians in neighbouring countries — a particularly interesting example being the large Nigerian community in Sudan, most of whom are former overland pilgrims to Mecca who never made it all the way home.



While population is a problem, nobody is sure about numbers

Still recovering from war

The Nigerian Government has been trying to replace quantity with quality in its armed forces, thus redressing an imbalance which was created by the civil war.

The legacy of the war was an army of more than 230,000, the largest in Africa after Egypt, which suffered nonetheless from a shortage of first-class officers and NCOs and adequate accommodation.

To those problems have been added a mounting worry over equipment as weapons and support vehicles bought during the war have rusted away through lack of spares and maintenance.

Five years after the war ended, the Government was still having to pay out nine-tenths of the defence budget in the form of wages to soldiers — who in the absence of anything better to do, needed to be kept quiet. The army acted as a kind of social service, employing more men than the country needed or could pay for, simply to keep them off the streets.

The weaknesses had started to appear before the war. Until independence in 1960, and for some years after, the forces were British-led and promotion was awarded on merit, with the brightest and best young Nigerian officers attending cadet and staff courses in Britain and other First World Commonwealth countries. General Gowon and Colonel Ojukwu who led the opposing armies during the civil war had both been to Britain, the former to Sandhurst, the latter to the other officer cadet school at Mons, Aldershot.

Africanization was completed however by tribal and regional squabbles, so that the over-rapid expansion to wartime strength in 1967 was made still more difficult than it might have been. As a result the army failed to distinguish itself in the war — except by its inefficiency and lack of central authority.

The preservation of unity and internal security in general remains the forces' most important role today. As unity within its own ranks has not been among the army's more impressive characteristics in recent years and as a shortage of cash has made it difficult for the federal Government to do very much about this, the need for a systematic overhaul of the forces was increasingly obvious during the second half of the 1970s.

The rationalization process is already well on the way to completion. The army's manpower is down to 140,000 — about the same size as the British Army — and is expected to go down to 120,000 in due course. And there are only 156,000 in the armed forces altogether, the navy totalling 6,000 and the air force 10,000 according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies in the latest issue of *The Military Balance.*

There are four infantry divisions in the army, and a number of separate brigades. The divisions are the first which is based on Kaduna, the second at Ibadan, the third at Jos and the fourth at Lagos. The brigades are centred on other major towns in the country while a defence academy at Kaduna trains officer cadets on courses which for regular recruits can now last for more than two years.

A staff college also opened near by in the mid-1970s. Seconded British officers and NCOs as well as Indians and other Commonwealth soldiers help in the training. There are also arms schools to teach specialist skills, so Nigeria now has the machinery to train an efficient fighting force, if the Government can succeed in making it work properly.

Recruiting is voluntary for all arms, and causes no special problems in a country where military service is looked upon as a privilege to be coveted. Far greater are the problems posed by tribal rivalries and by civilian resentment of the military elite.

Equipment though is mixed and in short supply. Because a number of western countries were reluctant to be seen to be fuelling the civil war by providing equipment for the expanded army, the Nigerians turned to the Soviet Union, with the result that their only battle tanks are 65 T-55s. Then there are 50 British Scorpion light tanks and a blend, or confusion, of British and French armoured cars and troop carriers.

The international flavour persists too in the air force, although as there are only 18 serviceable combat aircraft the mix is less apparent. There are only three front-line squadrons of fighter/ground attack planes for instance, one with Mig-17s and two with Mig-21s. Transports, trainers and helicopters are British, American and French, and equipment on order according to *The Military Balance* includes 12 of the Anglo-French Alpha-Jets in a combat, as opposed to training, role.

A German-built frigate and four British Vosper Thornycroft Corvettes are the largest vessels in the tiny Nigerian navy, supported by a mini-fleet of fast patrol craft and other coastal craft.

Awareness of the difficulties created by such a dated, heterogeneous mix led the Government last year to announce that more than £5,000m would be spent on replenishing the empty-handed troops.

Britain's share of this potential market was at various times reported to be worth more than £600m — although Whitehall sources have also described this as an exaggeration. Towards the end of last year it was announced that the Nigerians were buying more than £50m-worth of Vickers main battle tanks and supporting equipment, and in a separate contract, £17m-worth of Lynx helicopters — with Nigerian crews being trained by Westland in this country.

But the Lagos Government which is in effect pouring about a tenth of its national budget into defence, also wants to build up its own arms industry by including licensing and co-production agreements in its armaments deals.

Participants in United Nations and other peacekeeping missions had provided the armed forces with the opportunity for foreign training and experience. It had also given the troops a sense of purpose, which is important in the vacuum following the civil war.

Meanwhile western countries are anxious to do business with the Nigerians, for political as well as economic reasons. Nigerian suspicion of the Soviet Union and Soviet ambitions in Africa has made the country an ally worth cultivating. Nigeria has the resources to become a major force in Africa before the end of this century. But it will certainly need western help along the way. That help will be forthcoming if the Lagos Government can continue to prove that it is leaning in the right direction.

The author is Defence Correspondent of The Times.

Westland/Aerospatiale Lynx — more British and French equipment is on order

هكذا من الأصل

Natural gas burns away . . . an asset Nigeria has not yet harnessed.

NATURAL GAS

Blowing hot and cold over a potential asset

Where there is oil there is natural gas. This should be an additional asset but in Nigeria 96 per cent of the gas output of its oilfields is flared (as opposed to about 58 per cent in the Middle East oilfields). Travelling through Rivers State, for instance, one sees orange flares above wellheads lighting up the night sky. They are picturesque, but obviously a gross waste of a valuable source of energy.

This is something that has worried the Nigerians for some time. In the early 1970s the military government passed a decree which banned the flaring of gas after 1984. The trouble is that to convert the gas into a saleable asset is a difficult and expensive operation.

However, the oil companies and the Nigerian officials got together and in 1978 Bonny LNG was formed. LNG stands for liquefied natural gas and Bonny is the name of the town in Rivers State where a plant was to be set up to convert the gas into liquid form so that it could be shipped to buyers in America and Europe. This called for an investment of about $15,000m one of the biggest projects of its kind in the world.

Things were going well. A consortium of buyers had been lined up. Some $82m had been spent on planning and preparation, and although there was nothing to be seen at Bonny but a muddy building site, experts had hopes that deliveries of the liquefied natural gas might begin in 1986.

However things have now struck a snag. The Nigerian Government seems hesitant about investing the sort of money that is needed — about 1,600 million naira over the next five years.

In presenting an outline of his Government's Fourth Development Plan to the National Assembly in January, 1981, President Shagari said that the project was "rather too big to be implemented alongside the other major projects to be implemented during the Fourth Plan period."

The President added: "The Government, however, remains committed to the implementation of the project and will vigorously pursue its execution in cooperation with the private sector and financing institutions."

The proposal was to put the starting date for work on the project back to 1984, and in the meantime to invest only N300m to keep things ticking over.

The oil company experts found it difficult to believe that the Government really meant this and they gained some reassurances from senior men in the Nigerian Government. However, these proved illusory.

Phillips has now withdrawn from Bonny LNG. Its share was only 7½ per cent, but the serious thing is that Phillips had provided the management of Bonny LNG on secondment. The company has since 1968 operated successfully a similar plant in Alaska. Its withdrawal must throw the whole project into doubt.

The original composition of the Bonny LNG shareholding was: the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation 60 per cent; Shell and BP 10 per cent each; Phillips and Agip 7½ per cent each; and Elf 5 per cent. Agip and Elf are now expected to take over the Phillips share.

The proposal is that the gas be conveyed by pipeline (owned by the Nigerian Government) from the oil fields to the Bonny plant. There it would be cooled to 140°C, when it is liquid, and stored. Specially-built tankers which can hold 135,000 cubic meters of liquid each will take the liquefied gas from Bonny to the customers. Half the gas would go to a consortium of four United States gas companies. The rest would be delivered to specially-adapted terminals in Italy, Spain, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany and be bought by eight European companies.

The advantage to the purchaser of liquified gas is that it can be stored relatively easily and fed into their supply systems at time of peak demand — in winter, for instance. Delicate timing is needed if the project is to be successful. Continuous production must be maintained, with a tanker ready to come in as the previous tanker leaves.

Stable relationships with customers are essential. Twenty-year contracts were being negotiated and were, in fact, ready to be signed in December, 1980. Arrangements had been made for ceremonies and celebrations in Lagos. At the last moment it was discovered that the directors of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation had all been suspended because of an inquiry into an alleged book-keeping fault. The ceremonies had to be cancelled.

The benefits to Nigeria of a liquefied natural gas scheme would be huge. There would be profit from the government share in Bonny lng; profit from transporting the gas by pipeline; tax from the oil companies' profits; and fairly cheap gas available for local consumers.

Most important, it would mean that a national asset was no longer wasted.

Kenneth Mackenzie

OIL

The sweet life with Bonny Light

There are two things that the United States and western European buyers like about Nigeria's oil. Firstly "Bonny Light", as it is known, is a very sweet oil with sulphur content of less than 0.3 per cent. The other thing they like is that Nigeria is not in the Middle East, with all its attendant political uncertainties.

The Nigerians obviously appreciate their oil because it is providing them with the revenues which they hope will transform Africa's most populous country into a modern industrial state.

But their dependence on oil for such a high proportion of export earnings (more than 90 per cent) and government revenues (over 80 per cent) has its disadvantages and this was painfully demonstrated over the past year.

In January 1981 production averaged 2,100,000 barrels per day (B/D) and was being sold at a price of $40 per barrel. But Opec was in disarray and the international oil market turned soft partly because of continuing recession in Western economies damping down on demand, and partly because Saudi Arabia stubbornly maintained a high production rate in the face of this situation.

By March production fell to 1,880,000 b/d and by June it had slumped to 1,350,000 b/d and finally in August it reached a mere 708,000 b/d.

As a result there was much alarmist talk of an impending balance of payments crisis, of the need for emergency import controls and for a need drastically to prune spending on the development plan.

With the benefit of hindsight it is possible to argue that the Nigerians, by sticking grimly to their $40 per barrel price for so long in the face of an increasingly soft international market, succeeded only in harming themselves economically.

But things might have turned out differently, the volatile market might have stabilized or the Saudis might have relented and reduced their production.

In any event the Nigerians in August lowered their price to $36 per barrel and in October they changed their credit terms from 30 to 120 days but said that if payment was made in 30 days buyers could have a discount of $1.50 — in effect lowering their price to $34.50. Sales immediately picked up.

In October Opec finally unified their prices with the Saudis going up to $34, and the Nigerians going to $36.50, while the other main African producers, Libya and Algeria, went slightly higher.

By September Nigerian production was back over the one million b/d mark; by November it had reached 1,590,000 b/d and it is expected to top the two million b/d rate early in 1982.

Thus the Nigerians weathered the storm in good order. Development projects were not cut back, panic import restrictions were not introduced and by December President Shagari could introduce his 1982 budget with a degree of confidence about the future.

The conventional wisdom among people in the oil industry appears to be that the world market will remain fairly soft throughout 1982 but should firm up in the following year.

The important thing is that even with oil being sold at $36.50, Nigeria's domestic revenue account should be in comfortable surplus and its external account in no danger.

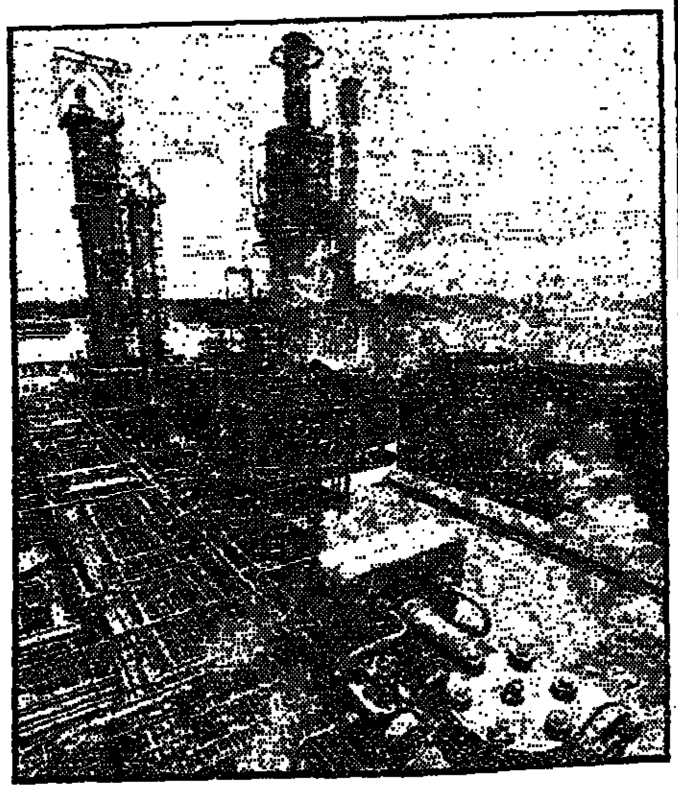
As to the longer term, Nigeria's oil reserves are impressive with proved reserves of over 16,700,000 barrels suggesting a capability of between two and two and a half million b/d production well into the 1990s.

In fact reserves are still being proved at a rate higher than production is depleting them. Exploration activity is intense in the delta area and in various other parts of Nigeria, and barring some catastrophe, finance for further development should not dry up, given Nigeria's attraction as a non-Middle East source.

This consideration is well illustrated by the intense activity of the oil companies all along the West African coast, notably the Ivory Coast and in Cameroun.

In the longer term Nigeria also possesses immense gas reserves which are estimated to total 75 trillion cubic feet, which one day could constitute an important export.

Godfrey Morrison



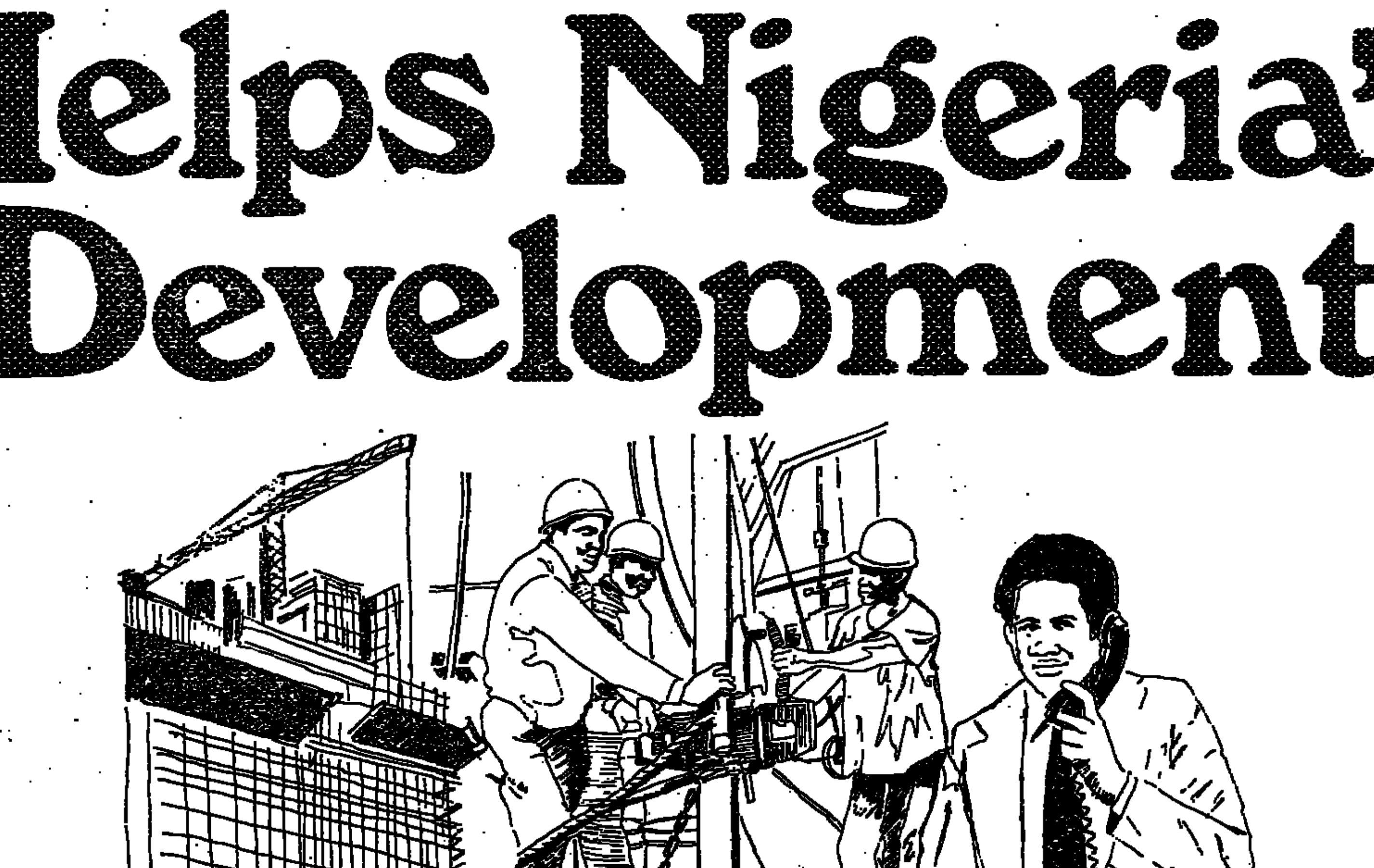
Exports are based 90 per cent on oil

President Shagari's commitment to agriculture is as vital as the role of the small farmer like the one below, watering a crop of sweet peppers in the north.

Far left: some of the country's 12m cattle.

Left: Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau, Minister of Agriculture.

Facing page: checking the corn crop at the Gusau Demonstration Farm in the north west — part of a massive project involving 68,000 families financed with the aid of a $19m loan from the World Bank. Agriculture's share of gdp has fallen from 60 per cent at independence to 21 per cent today, but a seven-year target has been set for the revival of cash crops.



Agriculture is at last being given the priority it deserves and by 1985 the Government hopes to return to self-sufficiency in food. **Guy Arnold** analyses its role in national planning and, on the facing page, **Alan Rake** traces the background to the decline in farm exports

The need for a green revolution

Three quarters of Nigeria's population, which is now increasing at 2.5 per cent a year, are dependent upon agriculture and live in the rural areas. Oil and the attractions of industrialisation over the past decade have led to massive neglect of agriculture so that today Nigeria has ceased either to feed itself or to export food commodities on any scale as once she did.

Food now accounts for about 15 per cent of imports at an annual cost of 1,000m naira. Hopefully, however, this trend is about to be reversed. Thus, while during the 1970s an average of only 6½ per cent of federal spending went on agriculture this increased to 11.3 per cent for 1980 and 12.7 per cent for 1981. The rural-agricultural sector at last appears to be receiving the money and attention it so urgently deserves.

The 1980 ILO Report for Nigeria, *First Things First* — said: "One of the surest routes to sound economic growth in Nigeria would be improved health, through improved nutrition, water supplies etc". These things go to the heart of any rural-agricultural programme. Basically Nigerian farmers need to learn better methods of food production. The report stressed that the sector required more federal spending, land reform and general priority attention. The present Government, it would appear, is giving such priority to agriculture: it is not before time.

President Shagari has made plain his commitment to agriculture. When he introduced the Fourth Plan he said the emphasis should be on "direct assistance to small farmers in the form of extension services, improved seeds, fertilisers, credits, tractors and implements, grain stores and land clearance".

The plan targets include: endouraging private business to undertake large scale farming; cooperatives; subsidized fertiliser; an increase in the number of available extension workers. This, indeed, may be the most important (and also hardest aim) to achieve. At present Nigeria has about one extension worker to 2,500 farmers (in Kenya the figure is one to 250 and the ideal is one to 50); the target is one to 800. It represents a massive reduction to achieve.

Under the Fourth Plan (covering 1981-1985) about 13 per cent of total resources will go to the rural sector so that it does appear that agriculture is at last receiving the attention it requires. Much has already been said about Nigeria's green revolution although as yet it is too early to say whether it will achieve its targets. The basic strategy is to eliminate restraints and improve the rural infrastructure. By 1985 it is hoped again to make Nigeria self-sufficient in food and in seven years to have returned the country to the position of being a major food exporter as it was at independence.

Special emphasis is being given to irrigated agricultural projects as well as rural water supplies; the problem of post-harvest losses through bad storage is being tackled while a target has been set to raise the present ratio of 15 grammes meat intake per caput per day to 35gms. In fact everything — services, infrastructure, commodities for export, cattle, the fishing industry and forestry — require fresh approaches.

Nigeria is able to call upon a number of external development resources. Under its Lomé II programme, for example, Nigeria has assigned 35 per cent of available EEC funds to rural development. In London this December the Nigerian British Chamber of Commerce held a conference to examine ways in which British suppliers can best help Nigerian agriculture.

Big projects — for example under the auspices of the country's River Basin Authorities — are part of Nigeria's answer to its agricultural development projects (ADPs) — seven states now have ADPs and more are planned — which are designed to provide comprehensive development for an area — both services and infrastructure.

During the 1970s export commodities either declined (palm kernels and rubber), ceased altogether (groundnuts) or remained static. Nigeria used to supply much of the world's groundnut oil for human consumption; the civil war, drought and neglect ended this situation so that today it imports 200,000 tonnes of groundnut oil a year. Under the plan it is hoped to restore Nigeria to self-sufficiency in groundnut production.

There is a programme to rehabilitate the old palm groves, while investment should increase palm oil production by 125,000 tonnes a year. Nigeria, however, has a long way to go before food commodity production is restored to its former importance: the target is to make Nigeria a major commodity exporter again by the late 1980s.

The key to agriculture in Nigeria — as indeed in most of Africa — is the small farmer and too often he is overlooked. Modern techniques, machinery, inputs of fertilizer and so on all have their part to play but small farmers account for 90 per cent of all production and if they are neglected — inadequately serviced or not provided with sufficiently attractive incentives to produce — then no programme of rural and agricultural rehabilitation will succeed.

The problems are not new: banks are reluctant to commit resources to finance rural development; the drift to the towns continues and the same area of land is called upon to produce more food to feed the urban areas; rural infrastructure remains grossly inadequate and always there remains the question: how to make life in the rural areas more attractive.

Unless the green revolution produces some startling results — and soon — then on present trends Nigeria may be importing twice as much in 1985 as it does at present. The basic problem which only a highly successful agricultural programme will enable the country to overcome lies in the fact that while demand for food is increasing by 3.5 per cent a year food production at present is only increasing by 1 per cent a year.

هكذا من الأصل

Cash crops could be the answer

At independence in 1960, Nigeria produced only a trickle of oil. It formed 2.6 per cent of export earnings compared with more than 90 per cent which came from a wide range of tropical crops and timber. Nigeria was the leading producer in Africa of groundnuts, groundnut oil and cake and of palm kernels and palm oil.

In 1970, after the Nigerian civil war, crude oil accounted for only 40 per cent of export earnings while agricultural cash crops held a greater share. But in the decade that has followed, agricultural exports, with the exception of cocoa, a little rubber and a few specialized crops, have dried up.

The production of groundnuts was once more than a million tons. Great pyramids of groundnuts sacks were the hallmark of northern cities like Kano at the end of the harvest season and the lorries and trains rolled endlessly to the ports. An optimistic World Bank team which visited the country in 1971 projected production of 1,400,000 tons by 1980 and 2,100,000 tons by 1984. Instead, exports stopped altogether in 1975 and there has been insufficient production even to feed the local crushing mills.

The World Bank team suggested that palm kernel production would reach 425,000 tons by 1980, but production reached a peak in 1976 and then collapsed to today's level of about 50,000 tons. Massive investment in new crushing mills in the mid-1970s went to waste as the supply of palm kernels, even for local processing, began to dry up. Instead the Nigerian consumer both in the country and the rapidly-growing towns began to use more oil for his own cooking requirements.

Today Nigeria is a huge importer of palm oil, Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau the Minister of Agriculture, said lately that vegetable oil imports cost the Federal Government about 125m naira annually. Nigeria whose name was once synonymous with the nineteenth century palm oil trade, is next year, expected to import 25,000 tonnes of palm oil.

The production of rubber, which was badly affected by the neglect and devastation of plantations during the war, recovered to peak exports of 61,000 tons in 1974. Since then exports have remorselessly declined year by year to some 30,000 tons.

In cocoa, Nigeria was the second largest exporter after Ghana and cocoa production was traditionally the second most important export. In 1965 production reached a peak at 310,000 tonnes, a little less than a quarter of total world production. Today, the average crop is between 150,000 and 170,000 tonnes and Nigeria has already fallen behind the Ivory Coast and Brazil as a producer.

The Commodity Board purchases in 1980 were 23 per cent lower for cocoa, palm kernels and rubber in 1980 than in 1979. And loans to farmers under the agricultural credit guarantee scheme were also considerably down over the same period.

One explanation for the decline in Nigeria's agricultural exports is that farmers have been switching from export crops to food crops to feed the rapidly growing population, particularly in the towns. But there is scant evidence that this switch had been going on except in particular areas. The Minister of Agriculture said that Nigerian food imports had passed the N1,000m mark in a speech he made on World Food Day. He blamed Nigeria's inability to feed itself on lopsided planning in the past and grossly inadequate public and private investment in the agricultural sector.

Despite promises by successive Nigerian governments that agriculture would be given priority, agriculture's share of the gross domestic product had declined from 60 per cent at independence to 21 per cent today, while the service sector and transport, particularly when related to the oil business, has grown proportionately.

Why does fuel drive out food? The reasons obviously go far deeper than the wrong government policies of the past, that are now widely admitted. The creation of oil wealth has upset the whole social balance between the cities and the rural areas.

Cocoa farmers are typical. Both the farmers themselves and the cocoa trees are aging. The younger generation, discontented by life in rural areas, has deserted for the towns, leaving the older farmer stuck in his traditional ways and not carrying out sufficient maintenance or disease prevention, let alone the replanting of cocoa trees which must be carried out every couple of decades if production is to be maintained.

Palm oil plantations have been similarly neglected. Frequently the fruit is not harvested and plantations are allowed to go back to bush. The older farmer cannot cope.

He abandoned cash crops first because prices were too low and switched to growing food crops because the prices they fetched were higher and because they could be marketed direct rather than through the agents of the marketing board.

Then gradually farmers began to grow only enough to meet their own requirements. As their children left for the towns, the spirit of enterprise and the necessity for more food left with them. The present Government is doing more than any of its predecessors to stem the decay. President Shagari, a keen farmer himself, sincerely believes that agriculture should be a priority. In April 1980 he launched yet another attempt to revive agriculture through the "green revolution". In the 1981 budget N620,000m or 12.7 per cent of the capital programme was devoted to agriculture, the highest-ever level in recent times.

Recently President Shagari said that he, was "quite satisfied" with the progress being made in the states. He said that the harvest for the first year of the programme, which aims to make Nigeria self-sufficient in food before the end of the Fourth Plan Period (1985), was just coming in.

One of the plan targets is "the increased production and processing of export crops with a view to expanding and diversifying the country's foreign exchange earnings." A seven-year target is being set for the revival of cash crops.

The marketing boards now pay the highest prices for the main cash crops anywhere along the West African coast. For cocoa for example, the Nigerian farmer gets the equivalent of £1,000 per tonne compared with £800 in Ghana, £553 in the Ivory Coast and £540 in Cameroon. Next year unless the world cocoa price averages over £1,100 per tonne the Nigerian Cocoa Board, hence the Federal Government, will actually be subsidizing farmers without leaving any fat to meet administrative and transport expenses.

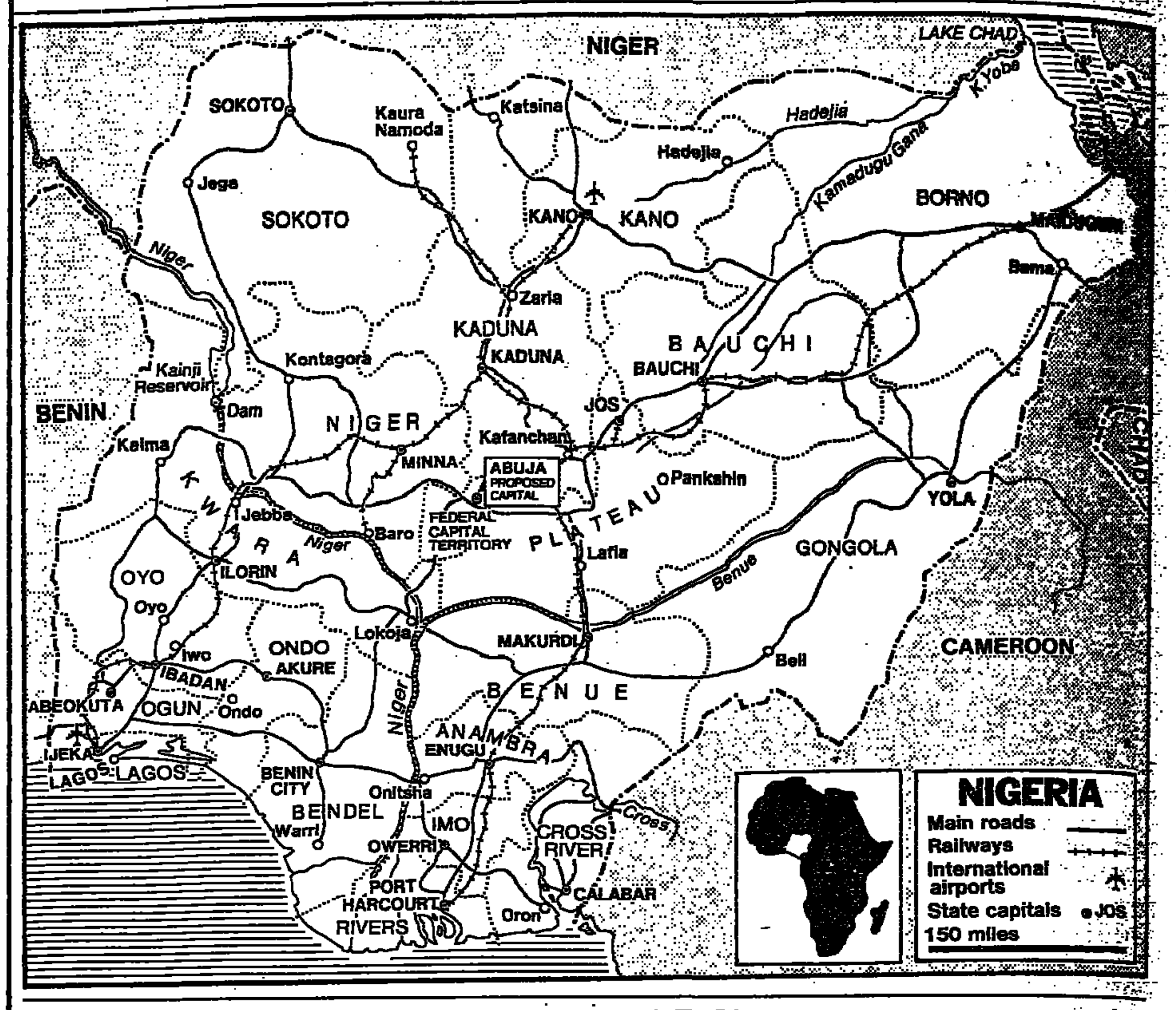
But clearly price incentives alone have not yet been enough to bring about a revival in the production of export crops. Under the plan priority goes to the food production sector.

There has been much criticism, lately, of the green revolution for putting too much emphasis on state-run, large-scale, mechanized projects. Professor H. A. Oluwasanmi the former Vice Chancellor of Ife University, said in a World Food Day speech that: "Large government farms would neither pay their way not yield the expected returns in cheap and abundant food ... government institutions and organizations are not designed to manage commercial ventures which require close personal attention."

The First National Seminar on the green revolution held in October also criticized the Government approach for concentrating on the main state projects and preventing millions of farms from getting the necessary inputs. Instead it had allowed groups not actually engaged in food production to profit. In its official communique at the end of the meeting, the seminar emphasized that caution shoud be exercised in encouraging large-scale mechanized farming. It called for a National Office of Peasant Mobilization under the direct control of the President, with its main purpose being to organize farmer cooperatives before 1985.

It is when the peasant farmer is convinced that it is worth his while to revive cash crop production that the current decline will be halted. Unfortunately there are few signs of this happening yet.

NIGERIA Government ☐ Economy ☐ National Development ☐ Main cities and towns ☐ Statistics



FOCUS

Government

After 13 years of military rule Nigeria returned to a civilian administration in October 1979. It is a federal republic within the Commonwealth and its presidential system is based on the American model.

There are 19 states with elected members, chosen from the five registered political parties, in the Senate and House of Representatives. The dominant party is the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) and its leader is Nigeria's President, Shehu Shagari. The NPN election manifesto described the party as the only one "formed out of nationwide consultation and consensus" which, if elected, would work for an open society and a prosperous and self-reliant economy based on a strong agricultural sector and rapid industrialization with encouragement for private enterprise and foreign investment. The NPN was generally regarded as standing somewhat to the right of centre.

The President's running-mate in the election for the vice-presidency was the 46-year-old Dr Alex Ifeanyichukwu Ekwueme, a distinguished Ibo architect from Anambra State who had not previously played an active part in politics.

The NPN holds seven states: Bauchi, Benue, Cross River, Kwara, Niger, Rivers and Sokoto. Although there is no constitutional recognition of an official opposition party, the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), led by Chief Obafemi Awolowo, undoubtedly sees itself in that role. The UPN, which proclaims itself a democratic socialist party, holds five states: Bendel, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo and Oyo.

The Nigerian People's Party, led by Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, holds three states: Anambra, Imo and Plateau, and the other two parties, Greater Nigeria People's Party (GNPP) and People's Redemption Party (PRP), each hold two: Borno and Gongola (GNPP) and Kano and Kaduna (PRP).

The next elections are to be held in 1983, and all five parties are already making preparations.

Economy

The worldwide oil surplus forced Nigeria to cut its output drastically in 1981. Although the consequent drop in oil earnings is not likely to be more than a temporary setback it has drawn attention to the inherent vulnerability of Nigeria's economy. Oil has been providing about 95 per cent of the country's foreign earnings and to make good the 1981 trading deficit the Government has been forced to draw heavily on its foreign exchange reserves. It is also expected to increase considerably its borrowings in the Euromoney market during 1982.

The Government has undertaken to curb imports and it can also be expected to reduce its own spending. But inflation, which was estimated at an annual rate of 14 per cent towards the end of 1981, is likely to quicken despite such measures. An important factor has been the Government's 25 per cent increase in the minimum wage for the public sector which, it is estimated, will put an additional N1.5bn on the Administration's wage bill.

One hopeful sign for the economy is the priority which is now being given to the redevelopment of Nigeria's agriculture. But, after a decade of neglect, the Government's planners concede that it will take some time.

National Development Plan

Nigeria's fourth National Development Plan, which came into effect in January 1981, provides for an investment programme totalling N82bn (nearly £70bn) in the five years to 1985. That target seems likely to be retained despite the fall in oil earnings as the Government would have no difficulty in borrowing any necessary funds to finance the plan.

Priority is given to the redevelopment of Nigeria's agriculture with an allocation of N10.7bn for that purpose. Education and manpower development are also high on the list and other recipients will be manufacturing (N6.4bn), housing (N2.7bn), defence (7.3bn) and the development of the federal capital territory at Abuja (N2.5bn).

It is expected that N70.5bn of the funds required will come from the public sector and the other N11.5bn from private investment.

Main cities and towns

Population Estimated at 90 million
Lagos (population estimated at 3,500,000m) Capital, principal commercial centre and main port
Kaduna (150,000) Notable for textile mills
Kano (295,000) Main commercial centre in the north
Jos (90,000) Capital of Plateau State. Centre for tin and other mining industries and agriculture
Sokoto (90,000) Industries include a cement factory, a tannery and agriculture
Maiduguri (140,000) Capital of Borno State. Centre for groundnuts and hides and skins
Ilorin (208,000) Capital of Kwara State. Industries include cigarette and match factories, sugar growing and coal mining
Ibadan (about 2 million) Capital of Oyo State. Produces 95 per cent of Nigeria's cocoa. Main university town
Benin City (100,000) Capital of Vendel State. Main industries: sawmilling, rubber processing and brewing
Warri (100,000) Important oil centre.
Port Harcourt (180,000) Capital of Rivers State. Major port and important oil centre
Calabar (75,000) Capital of Cross River State
Enugu (138,000) Capital of Anambra State. Badly affected by civil war but now growing again in importance
Bauchi (38,000) Capital of Bauchi State
Minna (60,000) Capital of Niger State
Ikeja (9,000) Capital of Lagos State
Makurdi (54,000) Capital of Benue State
Owerri (26,000) Capital of Imo State
Abeokuta (187,000) Capital of Ogun State
Yola (17,000) Capital of Gongola State
Akure (71,000) Capital of Ondo State

Inadequate statistics

In the annual report of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) published in October 1981 the following comments are made:

"Once again we have to place on record that it has become increasingly difficult for the CBN to analyse the perfomance of the economy in general, and appraise the effectiveness of policy in particular, due to inadequate data. At the time of writing this report (April 1981), for example, no actual data on Federal Government revenue and expenditure was available for the whole of 1980; the situation, as usual, was worse for the state governments.

External trade data in respect of 1980 similarly were unavailable. No firm data on domestic agricultural and manufacturing production are available on current basis. The available estimates are based on very scanty information and not much reliability can be placed on them. The data situation has, in fact, continued to deteriorate rather than improve. The Federal and State governments are once again called upon to recognise the lack of adequate and up-to-date statistics as a serious national problem calling for immediate attention and solution."

Banks

The First Bank of Nigeria (an associate company of the Standard Chartered Bank), The United Bank for Africa and Union Bank of Nigeria (an associate company of Barclays Bank International) maintain the largest number of branches.

Other authorized commercial and merchant banks are:
Arab Bank
African Continental Bank
Bank of Credit and Commerce International
Bank of India (Nigeria)
Bank of the North
Chase Merchant Bank (Nigeria)
Cooperative Bank
Cooperative Bank of Eastern Nigeria
Icon (Merchant Bankers)
International Bank for West Africa
International Merchant Bank
National Bank for Commerce and Industry
National Bank of Nigeria
New Nigeria Bank
Nigerian-American Bank
Nigerian Industrial Development Bank
North Central State Cooperative Bank
Pan American Bank
Savannah Bank of Nigeria
Wema Bank
Sociète Gènerale (Nigeria)
NAL Merchant Bank

Leading companies and corporations

United Africa Company (originally a subsidiary of Unilever, now State-controlled)
Delta Steel
SCOA Nigeria
Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation
Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry (the Federal Government Development Bank)
Boskalis Westminster
Paterson Zochonis
IBRU
African Petroleum (formerly BP Nigeria)
Nigerian Paper Mill
Triana
Niger Construction
International Computers (Nigeria)
Tate & Lyle (Nigeria)
A.G. Leventis Group
The Ugochukwu Group
The Mandilas Group

Diplomatic missions

London
High Commissioner: HE Alhaji Shehu Awak
Commercial Attache: Mr A. Ojo

Address: High Commission for the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Nigeria House, 9, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BX.
Telephone: 01-839 1244

Nigeria
High Commissioner: Sir Mervyn Brown KCMG OBE
Counsellor (Economic & Commercial): G. A. Duggan
First Secretary (Commercial): J. Illman
Second Secretaries (Commercial): J. T. Brown, M. E. J. Herridge

Address: Private Mail Bag 12136, Eleke Crescent, Victoria Island, Lagos.
Telephone: 611654 and 611934

Deputy High Commissioner: B. P. Austin
First Secretary (Commercial): C. T. Hart
Second Secretary (Commercial): R. A. Cairns
Third Secretary (Commercial): J. Thomas

Address: 2-4 Lamido Road, Kaduna (PMB 2096)
Telephone: 212178-80. 24-3080

Nigeria-British Chamber of Commerce
69-75 Cannon Street
London EC4M 5AB

Telephone: 01-248 4444
Telex: 888941

The Ministries

Agriculture
3rd Floor, Block 1,
New Secretariat
Ikoyi

Aviation
7th and 8th Floors, Block 2
New Secretariat
Ikoyi

Commerce
1st, 2nd and 3rd Floors, Block 2
New Secretariat
Ikoyi

Communications
P and T Building
Tafawa Balewa Square
Lagos

Defence
4th Floor, Independence Building
Tafawa Balewa Square
Lagos

Education
Kofo Abayomi Street
Victoria Island

Employment, Labour and Productivity
5th Floor, 6 Storey Building
Broad Street
Lagos

Federal Capital Development
15B Awolowo Road
SW Ikoyi

Finance and Customs
11th and 12th Floors, Block 1
New Secretariat
Ikoyi

Health
9th and 10th Floors, Block 1
New Secretariat
Ikoyi

continued on page IX

نقلا من الأصل

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Business marriages of convenience

Investing in Nigeria requires patience as well as money but it can be rewarding; a survey of some 70 manufacturing companies in the country showed an average annual profit for the five years 1975-80 of 39 per cent (of equity) pre tax and 20 per cent after tax. Those five years included a sharp domestic recession.

It has to be remembered, however, that virtually all investment in Nigeria has to be in partnership, using that world colloquially rather than with legal precision, with Nigerian interest, which may be official or private. Certain business activities are reserved for solely Nigerian interests, by the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Act, more usually referred to as the Indigenization Act.

In other activities Nigerians must hold at least 60 per cent or 40 per cent of the equity but, as General Obasanjo observed when he introduced the decree, 40 per cent of a business in Nigeria is worth more than 100 per cent in half the other countries of the world. The categories in which non-Nigerians may invest cover a very wide range of activities, and Nigeria's need for industrial investment is wide.

The guide lines for the fourth national development plan allowed for 11,500m naira of private investment over the period of the plan, 3,000m naira of that being allocated for manufacturing. Admittedly, the plan is having to be revised because of the decline in revenue from last year's drop in oil production but the government sector is the most likely area to show pruning. According to President Shagari's recent Budget speech there was growth of something like 15 per cent last year in Nigeria's manufacturing sector.

Any investment in Nigeria must, therefore, be in the form of a joint venture. A joint venture may be with one or several local partners depending on a variety of factors. If it is with an individual it may be the person with whom dealings over a number of years have built up a mutual trust — simple exporters of goods were warned at a recent meeting of the Nigerian British Chamber of Commerce that if they do not soon become local manufacturers they may see their trade dwindle. Or it could be a man of proven integrity, even if of limited resources. Or it might be a rich established businessman wishing to expand his interests into new fields.

It has to be recognized, however, that Nigerian domestic politics can change the circumstances of the individual partner in ways that may not be beneficial for the businesses in which he is involved and therefore it may be advisable to extend the Nigerian ownership beyond an individual. This can help to tap local capital sources, increase the number of people with an interest in the success of the venture and help the foreign investor to be the largest single shareholder. This latter object is desirable since it will help the foreign investor to be responsible for day-to-day management of the venture — it is assumed that there will be a local board responsible for more strategic management.

Management resources in Nigeria are very stretched and are inadequate for the country's needs, especially at middle management and supervisory levels where development is far outstripping the supply of experienced people. An investor will have to expect to do a considerable amount of training. He will come under pressure to indigenize his staff as soon as possible but also sheer cost of maintaining expatriate staff in Nigeria will ensure that few investors will keep them there longer than is essential.

For anybody contemplating investing in Nigeria it is essential to visit the country, and to keep visiting it or at least have regular visits made by a very senior member of the investing organization. But before going out do some thorough homework — mistakes can be expensive.

Not only will there be a lot of paper but it will have to be filled in faultlessly, the chances are that the civil servant handling forms will not have the confidence born of years of experience to pass over a slip of the pen and will stick rigidly to what the rule book actually says, not apply its spirit. (There is a tale of one form having been rejected because of a change of ink).

The guidelines to the fourth national development plan list nearly 100 industries that the Federal Government would like to see developed. They range from telecommunications switchgear to tooth picks: the latter probably do not offer much opening for a foreign investor, indeed quite a few of the hundred are simple manufacturers not needing a foreign investor whose principal contribution is almost certainly going to be expert knowledge both industrial and managerial. This still leaves a generous range of opportunities.

At present the major openings are in import substitution industries, which the Government wants to encourage, and in processing local materials again for local consumption rather than export. Nigerian production costs are too high to allow many Nigerian manufacturers to be competitive in foreign markets, and, indeed, most domestic industries need protective tariffs against imports.

President Shagari promised in his Budget speech a tightening up of the customs service which has hitherto been unable or unwilling to prevent smuggling on a scale which has done considerable damage to Nigerian industries, such as the plywood and textile industries to quote two major examples which suffered severely in the past year.

Opportunities exist for simple metal working such as galvanized tube, buckets, dustbins, drums, barrels, rolling or extruding aluminium nuts, bolts, screws, washers and other simple metal goods used in the construction industry.

Last November the Minister for Housing, Dr. Wahab Dosanmu, said that foreign investors would be encouraged to build houses to sell to Nigerians. He said they would get invited to visit states to assess what type of house would be appropriate.

There are still plenty of openings in the vehicle components field. More makers of refrigerators are needed, as are makers of sanitary ware, floor and wall tiles and ceramics generally. Electrical accessories and insulators are needed and the plastics industry will, in the not-too-distant future, be able to draw raw materials from local petrochemical plants. Shoes and clothing are banned imports but the scale of smuggling makes it plain that local industry does seem able to satisfy demand in either quantity or quality. Although the beer and soft drink industries are still expanding their capacity the market seems to be even faster growing.

Areas in which the Government is particularly keen are agriculture and agriculturally based industries; in these sectors foreigners are allowed 60 per cent of the equity but very careful planning and advance studies are needed in these activities. It should also be remembered that Nigerian agriculture is not heavily mechanized and much of the land is not suitable for the farming technology that is used in Europe.

Volkswagen parts for assembly at the Lagos plant.

Nigeria's population is generally put at the convenient round figure of 80 million and the proportion coming into the cash economy as potential customers is increasing, even faster than the overall population — one projection has forecast this at 200 million by 2,000 which could provide a substantial home market to support an industry. Nigeria is a member of the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, a grouping of 16 countries which is moving towards a customs union with internal free trade (by the end of May 1989) and a common external tariff. By then the transport system with the 16 states — stretching westwards from Nigeria to Senegal — should be much improved, making the possibility of exporting from a Nigerian manufacturing base a reality.

All round, Nigeria offers many attractions and openings for overseas investors — and is more kindly inclined towards those who declare faith in Nigeria's future early. Setting up there can be arduous, requiring a lot of patience and painstaking attention to detail. There are profits to be earned, though it would not be wise to expect automatically to repeat the experience of the company which last year declared a dividend of 30 per cent on its first full year of production.

Peter Thistle Suffern

TRADE

In the court of King Oil

In the terms of its size, the oil wealth at its disposal and the country's long-term development plans the Nigerian market remains one of the most attractive in the world. But for Nigeria the most worrying aspect of her trade is the pattern which persists after 21 years of independence: the country remains an importer of all the most important manufactured goods and an exporter of raw materials.

The only significant change in the pattern is that oil has been substituted for agricultural commodities as the principal export. In addition, most of Nigeria's trade remains with Europe and North America. Revenues from oil enable Nigeria to import the machinery and manufactures she requires for her development; few of these are as yet being produced at home.

The oil glut forced Nigeria to cut its production back drastically during 1981 to a low of 773,000 bpd in July and one result of that was a package of austerity measures in September. Oil accounts for over 95 per cent of all Nigerian exports. It dominates Nigeria's trade too much for comfort and in 1980 96.1 per cent of all foreign earnings came from oil. The value of oil exports last year came to 135,000m naira while that of all other exports to only 554m naira. Even despite the glut increased prices for oil mean the value of exports has leapt from a 1977 figure of US$12,430m to a 1981 forecast figure of US$20,000m.

Principal customers for Nigeria's oil exports (1980 figures) are: the USA — 44.3 per cent, The Netherlands — 12.1 per cent, France — 11.2 per cent, West Germany — 6.6 per cent, Italy — 2.8 per cent and ECOWAS 2.8 per cent. A cause for concern during 1980 was the fact that non-oil exports fell by 17 per cent. Of these latter Britain takes 28.6 per cent; other partners for Nigeria's non-oil exports are The Netherlands — 17.6 per cent, West Germany — 17 per cent, USA — 11.7 per cent, followed by France, Japan and Italy.

Most of Nigeria's imports come from Europe with Britain well in the lead as principal supplier although that position is now strongly challenged by West Germany.

The main categories for Nigerian imports are machinery and transport equipment (valued at 4,548m naira in (1980), manufactured goods (2,076m naira, food and live animals(1,091m naira), chemicals (734m naira) other miscellaneous manufactures and mineral fuels.

In 1977 Nigerian imports cost US$9,721m and were more than covered by exports; but for 1981 it is estimated that imports will cost US$22,000m, and that there will be an adverse trade balance in the region of US$2,000m, the highest ever. It is expected, moreover, that the overall balance of payments deficit this year will reach $400,000m reducing Nigeria's international reserves from $1,200m at the end of 1980 to about $6,000m at the end of 1981.

Britain is still by far the largest supplier to Nigeria and currently holds about 22 per cent of the Nigerian market. Nigeria is Britain's tenth largest overseas market and her largest outside Europe and the USA. Britain's principal exports to Nigeria consist of machinery, transport equipment, manufactures and food. In return (now that Britain no longer takes Nigerian oil) Nigeria mainly supplies aricultural commodities. There is a huge trade deficit in Britain's favour.

The size of the Nigerian market is testified to by the fact that in the six months to the end of November 1981, for example, British firms alone won contracts in Nigeria worth £350m. Yet despite such figures Nigerians suggest that British businessmen are not sufficiently aggressive and that in consequence too many major projects are won by Britain's principal competitors—West Germany, France, Japan and the USA.

Most successful is Peugeot

In 1980, after Britain, West Germany held 15 per cent of the Nigerian market, the USA 11 per cent, Japan 10.8 per cent, France 7.1 per cent, Italy 6.7 per cent and The Netherlands 4.1 per cent.

In recent years France has made determined efforts to obtain a larger share of the Nigerian market: she has had considerable success and Nigeria is now France's second trading partner overall in Africa after Algeria. In 1980, for example, France supplied Nigeria with 200,000 tonnes of sugar which accounted for 16 per cent of her exports to her.

French investment in Nigeria is increasing fast and there are now more than 120 French companies operating in the country. The most visible — and successful — of these is Peugeot. Last year France imported 12,700m francs worth of goods from Nigeria of which half — 10.9m tonnes — consisted of oil.

This year the Nigerian Export Promotion Council reported some encouraging signs of Nigerian exports increasing to her ECOWAS partners — notably Senegal, Ivory Coast, Togo and Sierra Leone — with the high quality of Nigerian goods comparing favourably with similar goods made in those countries. A very small proportion of Nigeria's total trade, however, is with either ECOWAS or the rest of Africa. ECOWAS is the obvious outlet for much Nigerian trade — certainly for her manufactures which are unlikely to penetrate the European market for a long time to come. But ECOWAS faces a number of technical and administrative problems: tariff differentials between members which so far have only been partially reduced, divergent currencies and indifferent infrastructure.

A long way to develop

Nigeria's total African trade only amounts to about six per cent of her worldwide trade although figures may be distorted because of widespread smuggling in the region. In 1980 Nigeria's non-oil exports came to only 2.8 per cent. Thus Nigeria's closest and in theory most obvious market still has a long way to develop.

One relatively new trading partner is India: there are now a number of joint Nigerian-Indian ventures while Indian companies are beginning to take up management and other contracts which until recently went more or less exclusively to European companies. There are bureaucratic and administrative problems for traders with Nigeria and one way to get round these is for companies to invest directly, something Lagos is happy to encourage. The areas most suitable for such investment are vehicle components, agriculture and food processing, building materials, telecommunications and chemicals. There are other possibilities. If, as everyone hopes, an upturn in the world trading position takes place and the oil recession ends Nigeria will boom again. Even in the present depressed market conditions it remains one of the most attractive markets in the world.

Guy Arnold

Nigerians desperately need foreign expertise and foreign investment but hate to admit it. **Gillian Gunn** explains attitudes to economic nationalism

Holding on to independence

The single white face among miners at Onyeama coal mine belongs to a Polish expatriate.

A tourist wandered into the central Lagos market recently, taking photographs of elegantly obese "Mammy traders" selling equally plump silver fish out of old, somewhat unhygienic, oil drums. An irate Nigerian accosted her: "You can't take pictures that ridicule us and then sell them in Europe for your own profit. Give me that film or I'll smash your camera!"

Like many Third World countries, the colonial experience has left Nigeria with an understandable chip on its shoulder. The desire to appear respectable in Western eyes, avoid exploitation and demonstrate independence evidenced in the man's outburst is reflected throughout Nigerian life. It has special consequences when applied in the economic sphere.

Ever since independence the Nigerian Government has sought to prove itself an independent entity that cannot be pushed around by the old metropole. A particularly vigorous form of economic nationalism emerged early on, which idealizes reduction of foreign control over all aspects of commerce and industry.

But in recent years the "I'm all right Jack" attitude has been tempered by a realization that Nigeria desperately needs the technical and financial resources foreigners can supply. Nigerian nationalism has aquired an ambivalent flavour, with the country simultaneously yearning for foreign assistance and hating to admit it.

Consequently the Government constantly tinkers with legislation as it tries to balance nationalistic desires with economic realities.

An example of this balancing effort is found in the "National Office of Industrial Property" legislation. Established in 1979 by the outgoing military government, the office was supposed to examine trademark, management and technical agreements between Nigerian and foreign firms to ensure that the technology transfer terms were fair. Objectionable agreements which exploited Nigerian enterprises were to be denied foreign exchange approval for payment.

"Because of the profit motive, foreign companies supplying technology don't want us to develop the absorptive capacity to redesign and implement that know-how", a Nigerian technology expert said at the time. "They want to sell us the same technology again and again. *We are like the buyer of a house who every* day has to call in the architect to turn on the lights."

When President Shagari was elected in late 1979 he took note of objections from foreign firms, which claimed the law would deter investment and eventually reduce the transfer of technology to Nigeria. In response Mr Shagari declined to implement the law and in early 1981 the Government reviewed the legislation and softened some requirements. By the end of 1981 the law was still on the books, and companies had received questionnaires on their technology transfer terms, but the office still had made no rulings against foreign firms. Economic realities won over nationalistic sentiment.

The balance between these conflicting imperatives is also reflected in Nigeria's 1977 "indigenization decree" (officially termed the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Decree). This limits foreign investment with the aim of "*promoting and protecting Nigerian participation* in all areas of the economy".

The decree permits 40 per cent or 60 per cent foreign equity investment in Nigeria, depending on the target sector's level of technology and capital intensity.

Designed to reduce foreign control of the economy, the law soon created a "chilling effect" on investors in some sectors. In February 1981 the Government responded by increasing the foreign equity limit for a number of sectors, including agribusiness, from 40 per cent to 60 per cent.

More recently President Shagari proposed a Bill in the National Assembly which would redefine a foreign company in the context of the indigenization decree and permit greater foreign expansion in Nigeria.

Finally the nationalist/pragmatist dilemma is illustrated in Nigeria's policies on expatriates. Nigeria's image of itself as an independent country equal in stature to the old colonial power is not enhanced by the presence of thousands of expatriates.

When applying for an expatriate permit the prospective employer must report its programme for training Nigerians as well as its plans for replacing foreigners with locals. The Government can also order outright employment of Nigerians. Last winter, for example, firms were instructed to place Nigerians in executive board positions.

In technology transfer, foreign investment and expatriate employment the balance between nationalism and pragmatism has increasingly been struck in the latter's favour over the last few years. But admitting the need for foreign assistance does not rest easily on the Nigerian conscience and the pendulum is sure to swing the other way again eventually. In the meantime, nationalistic rhetoric will continue to live uncomfortably with economic realism.

FOCUS

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Traveller's Guide to Africa. Edited by Richard Synge. International Communications, 63 Long Acre, London WC2E 9JH. 1980 edition (£7.50) contains information on Nigeria on pages 378-407

Africa Contemporary Record: Annual Survey and Documents. Edited by Colin Legum. Holmes & Meier Publishers Ltd, Hillview House, 1 Hallswelle Parade, Finchley Road, London NW11 0DL

Africa South of the Sahara. Annually. Europa Publications Ltd, 18 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3JN. 1980/81 edition (£25.50) contains information on Nigeria on pages 753-798

The Story of Nigeria (Faber & Faber, 1978) Michael Crowder

The Nigerian Civil War (Hodder & Stoughton, 1972) John de St Jorre

Nigeria Yearbook (*Daily Times*, Lagos)

Major Companies of Nigeria. Graham & Trotman Ltd, Bond Street House, 14 Clifford Street, London W1X 1RD. 1980/81. £22

Owen's commerce and Travel and International Register. Annually. Owen's Commerce and Travel Ltd, 22 Mount Pleasant, Alperton, Wembley, Middlesex. 1981 edition (£21) contains information on Nigeria on pages 493-681

Newspapers

Dailies: *Daily Times* (Lagos), *New Nigerian* (Kaduna and Lagos), *National Concord* (Lagos), *Punch* (Lagos), *Nigerian Observer* (Benin), *Daily Sketch* (Ibadan), *Nigerian Tribune* (Ibadan), *Daily Star* (Enugu), *Nigerian Herald* (Ilorin), *Nigerian Chronicle* (Calabar), *Evening Times* (Lagos), *Nigerian Standard* (Jos), *Nigerian Tide* (Port Harcourt)

Weeklies: *Sunday Times* (Lagos), *Sunday Concord* (Lagos), *Sunday Observer* (Benin), *Lagos Weekend* (Lagos), *Sunday Sketch* (Ibadan), *Weekly Star* (Enugu), *Sunday Chronicle* (Calabar), *Sunday Punch* (Lagos), *Times International* (Lagos), *Business Times* (Lagos), *Sunday Standard* (Jos), *Sunday Tide* (Port Harcourt), *Sunday Tribune* (Ibadan), *Financial Punch* (Lagos)

The Executive

Head of State: President Alhaji Shehu Shagari
Vice-president: Dr Alex Ifeanyichukwu Ekwueme
Ministers:
Agriculture: Alhaji Ibrahim Gusu
Aviation: Alhaji Abubakar Iro Dan Musa
Commerce: Alhaji Bello Maitama Yusuf
Communications: Mr Isaac Shaahu
Defence: Alhaji Akanbi Oniyangi
Employment, Labour and Productivity: Mr Samuel Adebisi Ogedneghe
External Affairs: Professor Ishaya Audu
Federal Capital Territory: Mr John Jatan Kadiya
Finance and Customs: Mr Victor Masi
Health: Mr Daniel C. Ugwu
Housing and Environment: Dr Wahab Olaseinde Dosunmu
Industries: Alhaji Adamu Ciroma
Internal Affairs: Professor Iya Abubakar
Justice: Chief Richard O. Akinjide
Mines and Power: Alhaji Mohammed Ibrahim Hassan
National Planning: Mrs Adenike Ebun Oyagbola
Police Affairs: Professor Emmanuel C. Osammor
Science and Technology: Dr Sylvester Ugoh
Social Welfare, Youth, Sports and Culture: Mr Paulinus Chinulu Amadike
Steel Development: Malam Ali Makele
Transport: Alhaji Umaru A. Dikko
Water Resources: Alhaji Ndagi Mamudu
Works: Professor Sunday Matthew Essang

continued from page VIII

Housing and Environment, 4th Floor, Block 1, New Secretariat, Ikoyi.

Industries, 9th Floor, Block 1, New Secretariat, Ikoyi.

Internal Affairs, 1st Floor, Block 1, New Secretariat, *Ikoyi.*

Justice, 4th Floor, Block 2, New Secretariat, Ikoyi.

Mines and Power, 6 Storey Building, Broad Street, Lagos.

National Planning, 5th and 6th Floors, Block 1, New Secretariat, Ikoyi.

Police Affairs, 2 Kofo Abayomi Street, Victoria Island.

Sciences and Technology, 3rd and 4th Floors, Republic House, Marina, Lagos.

Social Welfare, Youth, Sports and Culture, Kofo Abayomi Street, Victoria Island.

Steel Development, 1 Ozumba Mbadiwe Street, Victoria Island.

Transport, Joseph Street, Lagos.

Water Resources, 5 Kofo Abayomi Street, Victoria Island.

Public Works, Tafawa Balewa Square, Lagos.

Transport

Road: All-weather roads make it possible to get to many points by car but in some areas many secondary roads are likely to become impassable during the rains. Traffic travels on the right.

Rail: The railway system consists of about 3,500km of track with main lines from Lagos and Port Harcourt which meet at Kaduna. The line then continues through Zaria and Kano to Nguru. There is a branch line to Jos, Gombe and Miaduguri and another to Funtua, Gusau and Kaura Namoda. Although passenger facilities exist the main traffic is freight. At present the railways are managed by an Indian company, Rail India Technical and Economic Services. A new standard gauge railway system is to be built covering over 6,000km of track.

Ports: The three main ports are Apapa/Tin Can Island, Port Harcourt and Calabar. The other four — Sapele, Warri, Burutu and Koko — handle only small quantities of freight. Plans are on hand to expand the Atlas Cove oil terminal at Lagos.

Air: Nigeria Airways operate services from Lagos, Kano and Port Harcourt to link with 11 other centres: Sokoto, Maiduguri, Ibadan, Benin, Enugu, Calabar, Makurdi, Ilorin, Kaduna, Jos and Yola.

Entry regulations

Business visitors must now apply for entry permits to the Nigeria High Commission Area Office nearest to their business address. These are:
- The Nigeria High Commission Area Office, 3-11, North St Andrew Street, Edinburgh. Telephone: 031-557 0275 (Scotland and the north of England)
- Nigeria High Commission, Consular Section, Fleet Street, London EC4. Telephone: 01-353 3776 (the south and east of England) Nigeria High Commission Area Office, Oriel-Chambers, 5 Covent Garden, Liverpool. Telephone: 051-227 4921 (Wales and the west of England)

Visitors with passports bearing statements such as "Visa applied for" should not travel to Nigeria until they have a valid entry permit.

Applications should be made well in advance and should be supported by a letter of invitation to visit Nigeria and the return ticket for the journey.

Health certificates

Visitors require international certificates of vaccination against smallpox (issued not more than three years previously), yellow fever (not more than 10 years previously), and cholera (not more than six months previously) only if arriving from an infected area. A TAB vaccination is recommended.

Radio and TV

Radio: Nigerian radio services are controlled and owned by the Federal and State governments. A national service is provided by the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) known as Radio Nigeria with headquarters in Lagos.

In addition to the national service state broadcasting stations are operated in each of the states. There is also an FRCN external service which broadcasts to Europe, Africa and the Middle East in English, French, Hausa and Arabic.

Television: A national TV network was established at the end of 1975 bringing under Federal control the stations previously operated by some states. Countrywide colour coverage is virtually complete with an NTA (Nigerian Television Station) now in every state.

Several state governments, mainly those opposed to the present Government, are now also establishing their own TV stations.

Public holidays

Public holidays — 1982
*Eid el Maulud
January (1981: January 19)
*Eid el Fitr
July (1981: July 31)
National Day
October 1
*Eid el Kabir
October (1981: October 8)

The dates of holidays marked * depend on physical sightings of the moon and therefore vary each year. The Muslim lunar calendar has only 354 or 355 days so Muslim dates and holidays fall 10 to 12 days earlier each year on the Gregorian calendar.

Principal religions
It is estimated that about 44 per cent of the population is Muslim. About 22 per cent is Christian and most denominations are represented.

Ethnic groups and language
English is the official language but there are four main linguistic and tribal groups: Yoruba in the west; Ibo (east); Hausa and Fulani (north).

Bookshelf

Shehu Shagari, My Vision of Nigeria (Frank Cass, 1981) edited by Aminu Tijjani and David Williams
Nigeria since 1970: A political and economic outline (Longmans, 1981) Anthony Kirk-Greene and Douglas Rimmer
Nigerian Financial System (Macmillan, 1980) G. O. Nwankwo

continued on page X

Tolls on the new Lagos/Ibadan expressway.

Balance of payments forecast

(N m)	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Exports	14,640	15,672	16,758	17,894	19.079	20.306
Imports	11,818	13,263	14,884	16,601	18,485	20,548
Trade balance	2,822	2,409	1,874	1,293	594	−242
Net service payments	−1,233	−1,259	−1,330	−1,493	−1,538	−1,622
Current account balance	1,589	1,150	544	200	1,160	2,380
Net transfers	−233	−262	−288	−306	−337	−364
Direct foreign investments	240	264	290	350	400	450
Official capital	560	700	750	800	850	900
Change in reserves	+2,156	+1,852	+1,296	+644	−247	−1,394

Source: Outline of the Fourth National Development Plan 1981-85

Imports

(N million)	1978	1979+	1980*
Food and live animals	1020.7	766.5	1091.0
Beverages and tobacco	70.7	49.8	67.3
Crude materials	108.4	112.1	135.2
Mineral fuels	174.6	206.8	241.5
Animal and vegetable oils and fats	73.3	52.3	77.3
Chemicals	647.9	540.3	734.0
Manufactured goods	1850.3	1524.1	2076.5
Machinery & transport equipment	3587.5	3791.5	4548.6
Miscellaneous manufactures	664.5	414.8	666.4
Unclassified	13.8	14.3	20.3
Total	8211.7	7472.5	9658.1

+ Provisional *Estimated

Exports

	1978	1979+	1980*
Oil	5,401.6	10,166.8	13,523.0
Cocoa	377.9	432.2	311.8
Palm kernels	12.7	11.8	11.5
Rubber	12.6	13.0	11.8
Cocoa butter	17.6	20.8	19.8
Miscellaneous manufactures	242.0	192.2	199.1
Total	6,604.4	10,836.8	14,077.0

+ Provisional *Estimated

Gross domestic product

	1980 N50.6bn (est)
Sectors (per cent):	
Agriculture	22
Oil & mining	25
Manufacturing	5
Construction	10
Transport	3
Wholesale and retail trade	20
Housing	3
Government services	7
Other services	5

Estimated gdp for 1981: N57bn

Exchange rate

		US $ to the N
1975		.62668
1976		.63079
1977		.65138
1978		.64750
1979		.56051
1980		.54445
1981	February	.56683
	March	.56977
	April	.58136
	May	.60522
	June	.64616

Source UN Bulletin of Statistics

Major trading partners — 1980

	Imports (per cent)	Exports (per cent)
Britain	21.2	1.4
West Germany	13.8	12.6
Japan	11.4	—
France	10.2	12.4
USA	8.6	46.9
Netherlands	7.0	12.0
Italy	5.2	3.9
Belgium	4.5	1.8
Sweden	—	2.3

Trade with Britain

Imports (£m)	1978	1979	1980
Food and live animals	58.7	35.4	64.6
Beverages and tobacco	12.1	5.7	5.1
Crude materials	8.2	13.5	14.5
Mineral fuels	13.5	6.8	13.7
Animal and vegatable oils and fats	2.1	1.6	2.2
Chemicals	171.9	123.2	235.2
Manufactured goods	224.0	131.0	223.5
Machinery & transport equipment (inc cars etc)	—	248.9	510.5
Miscellaneous manufactures	135.5	66.2	126.8
Unclassified	6.7	5.7	8.1
Total	1133.3	638.2	1204.3

External debt

(N m)	1978	1979	1980
ADB	-	-	2.5
Canada	35.6	32.6	32.5
Hungary	-	-	10.5
IBRD/IDA*	154.3	163.9	179.1
Italy	11.3	10.4	9.6
Japan	30.0	30.5	43.7
Netherlands	9.4	9.0	8.7
United Kingdom	43.6	42.4	38.0
USA ID	46.0	49.3	49.1
USSR	0.6	0.6	-
Western Germany	34.1	231.1	281.1
Euro-Dollar Loan	627.4	1,027.8	1,090.2
Others	259.8	13.9	111.2
Total	1,252.1	1,611.5	1,847.2

*International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/International Development Association

International reserves minus gold

1981	US$ m
January	9,974
February	9,164
March	9,728
April	9,089
May	10,161
June	8,610

Source United Nations

Crude oil production

	('000 b/d)
1971	1,530
1972	1,818
1973	2,054
1974	2,256
1975	1,786
1976	2,067
1977	2,085
1978	1,926
1979	2,292
1980	2,052
1981*	1,460

*January-August
Reserves: 20bn barrels

Consumer price index

1975=100		A=All B=Food	
1976		A	128.9
		B	122.0
1977		A	143.0
		B	144.7
1978		A	166.7
		B	171.9
1979		A	186.3
		B	185.7
1980	April	A	192.6
		B	188.4
	May	A	193.6
		B	189.3
	June	A	194.8
		B	191.3

Source: UN Bulletin of Statistics

NIGERIA

BANKING

Dominated by the imperial giants

Nigeria has 20 commercial banks and six merchant banks riding high on the back of the oil boom and the burgeoning economy. But while the oil sector has fluctuated violently in the face of world recession. Nigerian banking seems to be growing faster now than at any time since independence. Many of the leading merchant banks almost doubled their profits in 1980. Lending to the private sector by the commercial banks surged by nearly 40 per cent to 5.4bn naira last year and the Government had to restrict total credit expansion in 1981 to 30 per cent, in an attempt to stop the banks running away with themselves.

"The assets of many of the banks almost double every year,' said one prominent bank specialist" and a whole host of new banks are now trying to get in on the act. "Ten new banks which originally applied for licences in 1978 are waiting to be approved. They have already been recommended by the Central Bank of Nigeria for approval. Five of the applications are by state governments to operate local co-operative banks and the rest are by private businessmen.

Conditions for starting new banks are strict. The oldest suriving indigenous bank, the National Bank of Nigeria was founded in 1933. It now ranks seventh in size, behind other banks with foreign shareholdings But the extraordinary thing is that the NBN did survive, and is shortly to celebrate its 50th anniversary while 20 out of the 26 Nigerian banks formed in the 1950s have failed, dispite connections with the highest politicians in the land.

Despite the growth of indigenous banking, with the Bank of the North now out in front and ranking fifth in the bankers' league, the sector is still dominated by the banks that grew in the imperial tradition. The First bank comes first. Since the 1976 indigenisation decree it is 40 per cent owned by Standard Chartered and 60 per cent by Nigerian interests. France's Banque Nationale de Paris holds a similar share of the second largest; the United Bank for Africa. It has had one of the most impressive growth records since the early 1960s, because of its aggressive support for local industry where the risks are high but the returns are large.

The Union Bank now lies third in the turnover rankings though it has more branches than any other. Barclays, once the leader in Nigeria, is now reduced to a 20 per cent shareholding in the Union Bank following its brush with the former military government in 1978, which took all government accounts away as a punishment for its activities in South Africa. This situation has been relaxed by the civilian government, but the Union Bank has been unable to recapture its lead.

The top three banks still account for more than 60 per cent of the assets of the banking sector, over 55 per cent of the deposits and about 60 per cent of total loans.

About a third of Nigeria's working population holds bank accounts and they have to put up with a fairly primitive system. The banks still have no centralized clearing system, cheque guarantee cards and credit cards are scarcely usable and a journey to a bank in any of the major cities is something of a nightmare, with long queues, bureaucratic systems of checking and counter checking and surly service by disinteresed clerks leading to long delays.

But at least modern banking is comparatively safe compared with the disasters of the 1950s and the banks are serving their prime function of looking after their clients' money.

The Federal Government has not been able to create a courteous banking service by decree, but it has been highly successful in transferring at least 60 per cent of the ownership of banks into Nigerian hands, while at the same time retaining the expertise and connections of the leading overseas banks. The 1976 indigenization decree can be reckoned an unqualified success as far as the banking sector is concerned. The overseas banks have found their Nigerian operations highly profitable, despite their reduced shareholdings, while Nigerian shareholders have done even better. And fully professional Nigerian bankers are emerging at all levels throughout the banking system.

Government control through the Central Bank, has become extensive. Since January 1980 the Government had had the right to appoint half the board of directors in all the 11 banks in which it has a shareholding.

The Central Bank sets interest rates for deposits and loans. It ensures that commercial banks maintain a 10:1 ratio of assets to capital and tries to control bank lending by a complicated quota system. Recently credit expansion has been so fast that it set a limit of 30 per cent for the expansionist bank lending in 1981. But in recent months most banks found that they had reached their limits and were forced to issue redeemable preference shares to redress the situation. Already the First Bank and the United Bank for Africa have strengthened their equity base by this method, with other major banks waiting in the queue.

The Central Bank has also set quotas on bank lending to make them take their part in financing less profitable and more risky areas such as agriculture. The pressure is also on to lend mainly to Nigerians, to small businesses and to people in rural areas.

The discipline imposed by the Central Bank is formidable, a most complex quota system forces banks to loan 75 per cent of their money to the productive sectors of the economy (eighty per cent to agriculture) and only 25 per cent to the service and commercial financing sector where the banks would like to concentrate their money.

The banks are expected to further categorize their lending with 70 per cent of the total going to Nigerian borrowers and 16 per cent to small businessmen. With such a complex system applied to 20 commercial banks, it is difficult to enforce. In 1980 only 70 per cent of lending went to the priority sector and the Central Bank imposed fines on banks which had not achieved their quotas. This leads to considerable frustration, but it does mean that the pressure is on to comply with overall economic objectives.

Another aim has been to get the banks to develop rural banking. The rural banking programme required the commercial banks to open 200 branches in designated areas by June 1980. Many of the banks, including the leaders failed to achieve their targets. A second phase of the programme then started with the requirement for a further 200 branches in specified rural locations by 1983. When this is completed there should be over 1,000 branches in the federation.

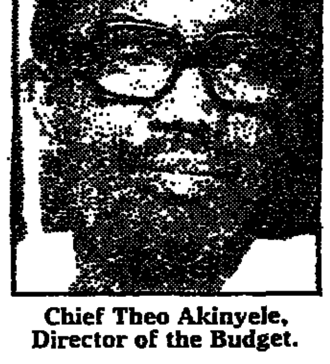
The rural banking programme is very unpopular with the bankers who claim that they loose money heavily on each branch that they open, saying that they cannot expect to make profits for at least ten years. But businessmen who are battling to establish industries in remote areas need a local banking service and complain bitterly at having to deal with inefficient Lagos branches where they have little peronal contact. Many businessmen feel that when the Government programme of 1,000 branches is completed, this will be insufficient for the country as a whole, with its nearly 90 million population.

Some of the more far-sighted bankers realize that if they are the first to master the problems of rural banking and to establish themselves as market leaders they will reap great rewards in future. But if it was not for the preasure by the Government, the banks would undoubtedly concentrate on the main towns where easy profits are to be made.

So they are now being asked to sacrifice a little of their burgeoning profits in the interests of rural development, the promotion of agriculture and the task of making rural areas better places to live in. By the time the oil wealth dries up the banks should have played their part in promoting balanced devolopment to the furthest corners of the federation.

Alan Rake

The author is managing editor of African Business *and* New African.



Chief Theo Akinyele, Director of the Budget.

Ola Vincent, Governor of the Bank of Nigeria.

Victor I. Masi, the Minister of Finance

MANPOWER

Training: the key to development

The most important key to Nigerian development is not oil money, nor foreign investment, but education and training. That is the view of an increasing number of Nigeria's planners, and their arguments are persuasive.

No matter how much money flows in, if it is not husbanded efficiently by well-trained managers and productive workers, these planners say, real development will remain an illusion. The outline of the 1981-1985 development plan acknowledges this point, saying, "It is well known that shortages of skilled manpower constitute the most serious bottleneck to the capacity of the economy to absorb the increasing volumes of investment made possible by oil revenue".

But actions speak louder than words, and to date Nigeria's education and training efforts have been inconsistent. Finance earmarked for government education schemes have trickled in in fits and starts. Much of the funds for university development included in the previous five year plan never materialized because of budget cuts.

More recently primary school education suffered when the Federal Government handed responsibilty for this sector over to the state and local governments, many of whom have now spent the education finance on other projects.

None the less, overall government intentions are clearly honourable, and significant progress has been made. Today more Nigerians graduate each year than in the entire period of British colonial rule. A full N2.2 billion, or 5.5 per cent of the federal capital investment during the 1981-1986 plan period is to go on secondary, university and technical education. The University Primary Education campaign (UPE), first launched in 1976, is expected to enroll more than 15 million children in 1982. In addition, the Federal Government will finance construction of eight new universities over the plan period.

These plans will surely be dogged with familiar implementation problems, but the goals are sensible and the programmes are well suited to Nigerian conditions. Development experts particularly approve of Nigeria's new emphasis on vocational and technical training, in light of the severe shortage of skilled workers in the country. Seven of the eight new universities will specialize in technical skills, and vocational training will be emphasized at the secondary education level.

Managerial skills gap

But no matter how much energy Nigeria devotes to public education, there will still be a managerial and technical skills gap holding back ecomomic development. Presently the plan estimates there is a 45 per cent shortage of civil and structural engineers, and a 40 per cent shortage of architects. Similar shortages are reported in other professional areas, and the situation is at least as bad for the lower level of workers. With most sectors requiring 50 per cent to 100 per cent increase in trained managers and workers by 1985, clearly the Government will not be able to make up the entire training deficit.

This is where private enterprise comes in. Companies requiring skilled staff are increasingly establishing their own training institutes in an effort to plug the manpower gap. "It's not a matter of *choosing* to train", says a manager of a United Kingdom manufacturing concern in Lagos. "We *have* to train if we are expand."

Previously firms used on-the-job trainig for factory hands, while sending promising managerial candidates overseas for special courses. But they found Nigerians returning from abroad often brought back attitudes inappropriate to Nigerian conditions. Workmen trained on the job tended to receive half-hearted instruction.

Thus firms are now setting up their own company schools for both managerial and technical training. "We advise companies in Nigeria to hire separate staff whose sole responsibility is training", says a London-based personnel consultant. "Those

Continued on facing page

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Rex Collings reflects on the political influence wielded in the writings of Wole Soyinka and a Special Correspondent argues that the freedom of the press is undermined by journalists' irresponsibility

A passionate voice crying out against corruption

There is in C. S. Lewis's description of the birth of Narnia* a passage that runs: "Can you imagine a stretch of grassy land bubbling like water in a pot? For that is really the best description of what was happening. In all directions it was swelling into lumps . . . lumps moved and swelled till they burst, and the crumbled earth poured out of them, and from each lump there came out an animal . . . But the greatest moment of all was when the biggest lump broke like a small earthquake and out came the sloping back, the large, wise head, and the four baggy-trousered legs of an elephant."

To the outside *observer* Nigeria at the time of independence displayed some of that same attribute of "bubbling like water in a pot". Out from each bubble came a poet, or a playwright, or a musician, or an artist. In the whole world of the arts there was a feeling of tremendous excitement of fecundity, an atmosphere of boundless, constant activity. One was overwhelmed by the number of artists who flourished there — like the old Windmill, their haunt, the Mbari Club never seemed to close.

One of this band was 'Wole Soyinka, who in the early sixties was the wost promising of the playwrights. The two full-length plays written during this period, *The Lion and the Jewel* and *A dance of the Forest*, which was published in London and performed as part of the Nigerian independence celebrations in 1960, showed in his writing a passionate hatred of the corruption and backwardness of the political establishment — as a radical he supported Chief Awolowo, the leader of the Action Group, then the main opposition party — and he denounced the activities of the Northern conservaties and their southern allies and hangers on.

The armed "invasion" of the Ibadan broadcasting studio in 1965 and the anti-Government broadcast became something of a *cause cèlèbre*. The breakdown, particularly in the Western Region, of law and order, and then the Major's Coup of 1966 put him in a dilemma. He hated military rule and dictatorship, he hated the old corruption and he hated the idea of civil war. The leader of the first coup had a very brief reign, being almost immediately replaced by General Ironsi, the Army Commander, who was soon to be overthrown in the period leading to the Civil War.

Wole Soyinka has described in his prison memoirs† the events that lead to his arrest and the experience of his long and mostly solitary confinement — in the introductory note he describes very clearly and succinctly his attitude to public affairs — "the man dies in all who keep silent in the face of tyranny".

Ten years later he writes more specifically about the røle of the artist in society, expanding perhaps on the simplicity of the first statement and answering the accusation made in a review that the play in question — *Opera Wongosi* — lacked a "solid class perspective". "Art", he writes, "should expose, reflect, indeed magnify the decadent, rotted underbelly of a society that has lost its direction, jettisoned all sense of values and is careering down a precipice as fast as the latest artificial boon can take it". And of the writer's (his) rôle, he writes: "At the foundation will be found an uncompromising *concern for the social values* of literature, a recognition of the limitations and its potential, and an assertion of the writer's role as being merely complementary to that of the politician, sociologist . . . not one which can usurp one or all of these roles in entirity without forfeiting its own claim to a distinctive vocation."

How, then, does this man fit into the present-day Nigeria? Practically, he has been extremely influential, the driving force in the formation and running of the Oyo State road safety corps.

For the first time he has left the sidelines and joined a political party, not as might have been expected, the United Party of Nigeria, the party of his old friend and mentor Chief Awolowo — the successor party to the Action *Group — but to the radical* section of the People's Redemption Party.

He sees this as the most effective way of attacking the corruption that he believes is so rife in central government. Very much, too, he sees the need for an authentic African voice to denounce the tyrannies of Africa — whether black or white.

Internally, too, 'Wole Soyinka has used, and still uses, *his great moral* authority to condemn such affronts to civilized standards as the public executions that not so many years ago were held on the Lagos beaches. He had fought for the rights and independence of students and the universities.

It is not as an unacknowledged legislator that he sees *his role* and responsibility as a poet, but rather as a voice of reason and conscience in a country where sudden and great wealth and unfettered power has tended to ignore the one and stifle the other. His commitment to his country is total — why else is he so affronted by the defects of its leaders? His local roots are a strong fact seen in his recently published autobiography *Ake: The Years of Childhood*. What will happen next? In this period before *the next general election will* the poet be submerged by the party politician — it will be fascinating to observe the *Metamorphosis of 'Wole Soyinka* to see whether the writer's distinctive vocation will survive.

* *The Magician's Nephew*, London 1955 (pp110-111)

† Preface to *Opera Wonyosi*, London 1981 — the play was first performed at the University of Ifé in December 1977. It is an adaptation of *The Beggars Opera*.

Wole Soyinka: "Art should expose, indeed magnify the decadent underbelly of society"

continued from facing page

expatriate instructors should both train staff and, equally important, train Nigerian instructors to take over once the expatriate crew has left.

Companies often find they must establish elaborate training programmes for even the most rudimentaary tasks. Because many workers grew up in villages lacking even a water tap, they can be unfamiliar with the most basic technical concepts. They must therefore be taught skills that Western youngsters learn in the playpen. This does not reflect Nigerian stupidity, but rather inexperience with industrial society. Even when the workers are fully trained, difficulty with technical problems brings productivity down to about 60 per cent or 70 per cent of developed world standards.

Managerial training has moved ahead more smoothly. "We are having an easier time finding managers now than we did five years ago", says the (Nigerian) marketing manager of a foreign glass manufacturing concern in Lagos. "But they are all *new recruits and we still lack* experienced Nigerian personnel."

Successful company training programmes for both managers and workers also suffer from widespread inter-company poaching. "Out of every two people we train we keep only one for more than a year", says a firm particularly annoyed with this problem. Companies have tried to retain workers through bonding, but this is seen as bordering on "involuntary servitude" and is highly unpopular.

The Nigerian Government strongly encourages company in-house programmes, and ineed makes approval of foreign firms' expatriate quotas contingent upon the quality of the training programme for Nigerians. In addition, each company must contribute a levy to the Government's industrial training fund. A parastatal organization, the Centre for Management Development, inspects all in-house training and can authorize refunds of up to 60 per cent of this levy on approval of the company efforts.

The CMD also provides education and training assistance directly. Run by a committee of representatives from universities, government ministries, chambers of commerce and employers' organizations, the CMD coordinates the vast assortment of public and private schemes, and develops management training curriculums.

Most companies accept the training responsibility as part of a Nigerian investment. "In a sense we can consider it part of our marketing or public relations campaign, as well *as an industrial necessity*", says one training specialist.

Shortage of managerial and technical skills will undoubtedly remain a serious constraint on economic development in Nigeria for the medium term. Ambitious training programme will founder, and government funds will continue to be unpredictable. But clearly both the public and private sectors have recognized that training is crucial to future development, and light is visible at the end of the shortage of skills tunnel.

Gillian Gunn

His master's voice instead of a watchdog

Nigerians often boast that they have the freest press in Africa. This is true in the sense that there are newspapers that feel able to criticize the Government in the strongest terms, often abusing and insulting the President and making serious allegations against senior members of his government.

However, it is often alleged with some truth that Nigerian journalism, though free, is not independent: that is, that most newspapers follow a party line and that most journalists do as they are told rather than exercise their own judgment.

President Shagari and other leaders of his National Party of Nigeria have often expressed their commitment to the freedom of the press. But concern has recently been caused by the arrest of some editors after publication of allegedly false accusations against the President (these cases are still *sub judice*) and by allegations that pressure has been exerted on broadcasting journalists and on the *Daily Times* to toe a party line.

The Nigerian press played a proud part in the struggle for independence and it also managed to maintain a degree of self-respect during military rule from 1966 to 1979. There were instances of journalists being beaten up by soldiers and the newspapers were under tremendous pressure. But they maintained some freedom to criticize.

When the time came to draw up a civilian constitution much debate was given *to the question of whether* there should be a constitutional guarantee of free*dom for the press. The* Constituent Assembly finally decided that the rights of freedom of expression given to every citizen were enough to cover the needs of newspapers too.

15 dailies and many weeklies

There has been a boom in newspaper growth since the *return to civilian rule in* 1979, with over 15 daily newspapers now being published and a proliferation of weeklies and magazines.

The most important are: the *Daily Times*, of which more later, the *New Nigerian*, published in Kaduna and regarded as the voice of the northern establishment, wholly owned by the Federal Government but one of the most serious and intellectually independent of the papers; the *Tribune*, the voice of Chief Awolowo's Unity Party of Nigeria, published in Ibadan and unrestrainedly (sometimes irresponsibly) critical and abusive of the ruling party; the *National Concord*, published since March, 1980, by the wealthy Chief M. K. O. Abiola, a newspaper totally committed to the ruling party but employing many of the stars of Nigerian journalism and most intelligently produced; *Punch*, published in Lagos and almost the only politically independent newspaper, very bright and popular with scantily clad girls on page three.

There are also newspapers appealing mostly to the regions in which they are published, such as the *Daily Sketch* of Ibadan, the *Daily Star* of Enugu, the *Chronicle* of Calabar, the *Herald* of Ilorin, the *Observer* of Benin City, the *Standard* of Jos, the *Statesman* of Owerri and the *Tide* of Port Harcourt.

The case of the *Daily Times* is interesting if highly controversial. The paper is 60 per cent government-owned. President Shagari, during his presidential campaign, gave some support to proposals that it should be returned entirely to private hands, but this proposal was dropped after he came to power.

Since then the board has been completely reconstituted, the editor changed and a large number of senior men redeployed, many leaving the company as a result. Many saw this attempt to make the paper a more consistent supporter of the ruling National Party of Nigeria, though this is vigorously denied by the party and the new *Daily Times* men.

Loss of morale and circulation

However, one undoubted result has been a serious loss of morale by the journalists left on the paper. It has also lost circulation and has lost money this year. (Most Nigerian newspapers are *losing money, but the Daily Times* has wide outside interests and has up to now recorded big yearly profits. There are special circumstances, however, including big expenditure on a new printing plant.)

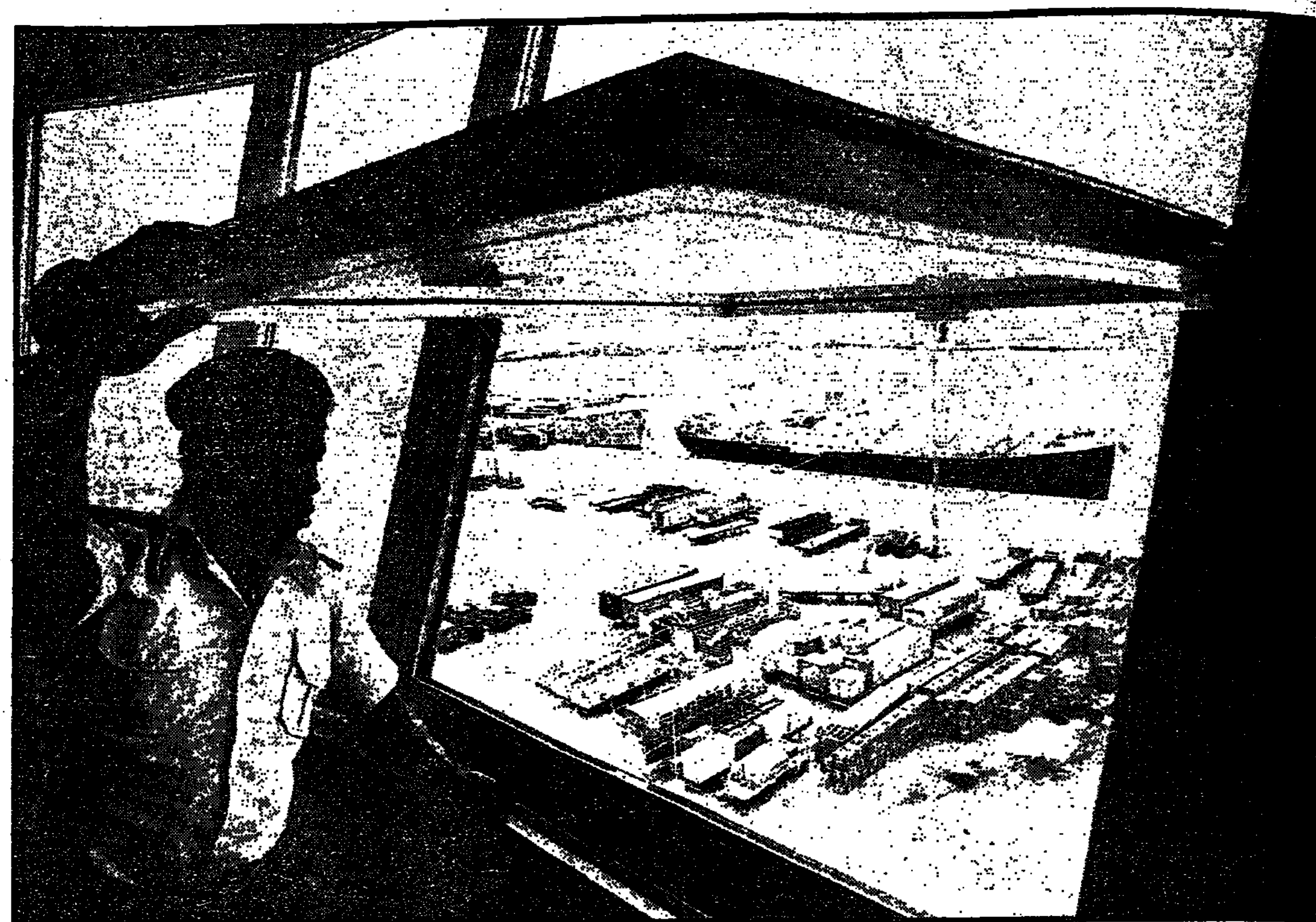
The Governor of Lagos State, Alhaji Lateef Jakande, is a political opponent of the National Party of Nigeria and *so his views* are obviously partisan. But he is also a former journalist and speaks *with authority* on these matters. He said in a recent speech: "The *Daily Times*, which should be the leader of the mass media in objective journalism, has performed disgracefully in the past eighteen months. I am sure that the great journalists who laboured to build up a reputation for the *Daily Times* must feel distressed that in their lifetime what they built is now being destroyed by their successors."

More generally, the shortcomings of Nigerian journalism come largely from the fact that it is not a highly-regarded profession in Nigeria. Men of quality find they can make more money and gain more status in other sectors. Journalists are often regarded as little more than messengers, carrying handouts back to be published. There is a distressing custom at political press conferences of handing the *reporters envelopes* containing money on the way out.

The matter was summed up in an article in *West Africa* by Abraham I. Obaze, of the Department of Mass Communication, University of Nigeria. He wrote that the Nigerian journalist was rarely objective. "He is his master's voice. He is supposed to approach information sources with maturity, because of his role as the watchdog of society. He is instead under the heavy thumb of the 'big brothers'. How can the ordinary man of this country form a valid opinion about events or discuss what is good and what is bad if the watchdog, though he is not harassed or shackled, will not even bark or bite? How can we have a responsible press if the journalist refuses to accept his responsibility but continues to lick the boots of the powers that be?"

The port of Lagos achieved notoriety in the late 1970s through bottlenecks caused by the oil boom. **David Hilling** suggests ways in which the system could be streamlined

The Tin Can stopgap



In Nigeria, as elsewhere, there is the problem of matching the supply of port facilities to the demand. Port structures take time to plan and construct and have a very long life, Yet trade patterns can change rapidly. For Nigeria, as for other developing countries, there is the additional problem of trying to provide basic port facilities at a time when maritime transport technology is undergoing rapid transformation with conventional labour-intensive cargo handling methods being replaced by unitization in various forms.

There are crucial questions relating to the choice of technology and timing its implementation. Mistakes will be costly and Nigeria will have to live with them for a long time.

There had been a gradual expansion of port facilities during the 1950s and 1960s and plans were in hand for a third extension at Apapa when the oil revenue increases of 1973/74 sent Nigeria on a spending spree. Shipping space was readily available to satisfy the dramatic increase in demand for consumer and producer goods including the excessive purchase of cement which for the problems it created, has claimed a place in maritime history. The ports could not immediately meet these new demands and by 1976 more than 400 vessels waited for berths.

The reaction to this crisis was to maximize mid-stream cargo handling into lighters, provide lighterage quays, develop roll-on/roll-off services and embark on a massive investment programme for additional deep-water berthage. In consequence Nigeria's trade leapt from 4,400,000 tonnes in 1974-75 to 11 million tonnes in 1978-79.

Lagos-Apapa handled some 70 per cent of the national trade and not surprisingly two major expansion projects, the ten berth Tin Can Island scheme and the six berth Apapa extension, were located at the capital. Completed in only 17 months, the Tin Can Island complex has been described as a "short term solution to a long term problem" and may be criticized for being a rather conventional general cargo facility which falls far short of the ideal for unitized cargo.

Container movements through Nigerian ports increased from 27,466 units in 1974-5 to 149,237 units in 1978-9 and 90 per cent of this traffic is through Apapa where the 33 ha of land at the new extension is grossly inadequate for efficient container handling, out-of-port stacking is deficient and hinterland links create problems.

There has been some attempt to spread the load and consiferable expansions to berthage at Warri, Port Harcourt and Calabar have enabled them to increase their share of trade to 35 per cent.

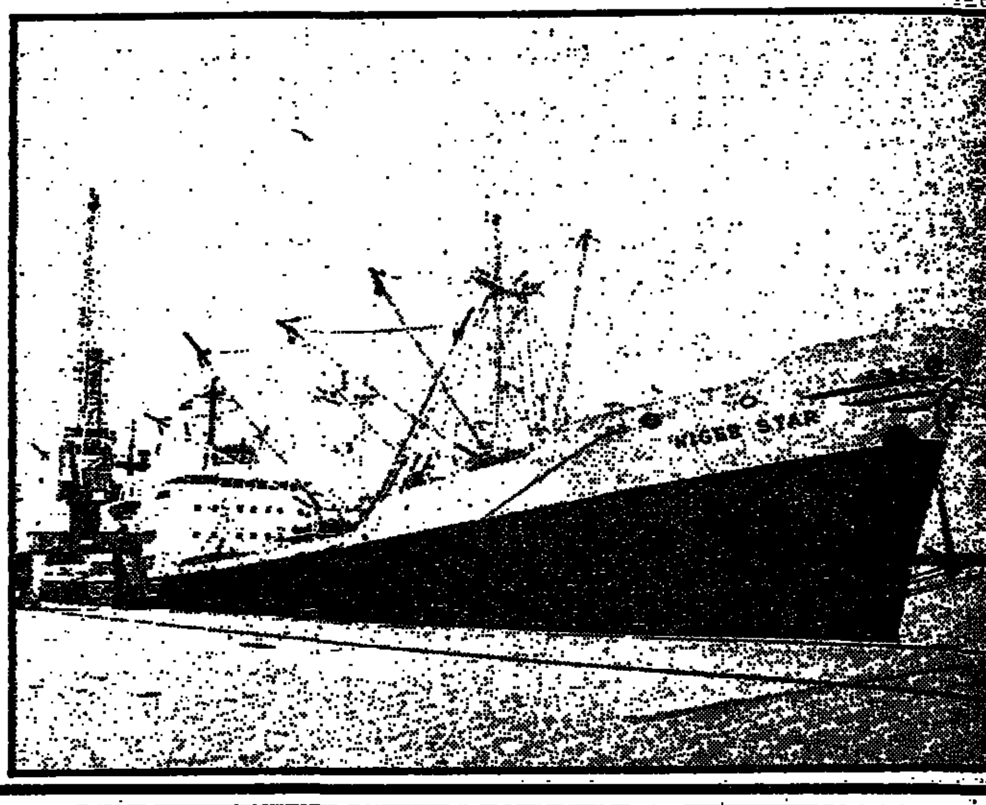
Yet ports can only be as good as their hinterland linke permit. The roads in and around Lagos–Apapa have been greatly improved but evacuation routes still create problems. Tin Can Island has no rail link and the Apapa extension suffers from congested access routs. Warri and Calabar have no rail links and the latter's ability to offer relief to hard pressed Port Harcourt is severely restricted by the lacked of hinterland routes.

For several decades Nigeria's railway system had been of declining importance for freight movement but if the ports are to meet the demands of the container age *the railways must help. There* are signs of improved management, some new facilities and rolling stock and plans for the conversion of some main lines from 3ft 6in to standard gauge. At Kano a rail served inland container terminal has been build and provides Customs clearance service thereby allowing containers to transit more rapidly through the ports. The Peugeot assembly plant at Kaduna, for long receiving its components by air, now depends on containers railed from Apapa, a route previously throught impracticable because of port problems.

Road vehicles are often far from satisfactory for the efficient handling and rapid movement of freight. There has been some increase in the number of flat-bed trailers but many of the traditionally favoured lorries have fixed sides are are tail loading which makes them particularly unsuited for the movement of unitized freight and can slow down the whole cargo handling process at the port.

The Central Water Transportation Company and Government are trying to rejuvenate an inland waterways system that had been allowed to decline. The Niger River is being dredged to provide 1.8m depth to Lokava at all seasons and the recent delivery of four advanced pusher-tugs could herald a new era for standard gauge. At Kano a rail served inland container terminal has been built and provides Customs clearance service thereby allowing containers to transit more rapidly through the ports. The Peugeot assembly plant at Kaduna, for long receiving its components by air, now depends on containers railed from Apapa, a route previously throught impracticable because of port problems.

Left, dockers at new Calabar port complex; above and right, Tin Can Island port, which, like Warri and Calabar, is hampered by an absence of rail links.



The efficiency and therefore capacity of the existing ports could be vastly increased by greater attention to such problems and more investment in port hinterland and links and support facilities. This could well pay greater dividends than the proposed massive port construction projects at Onne, south of Port Harcourt, and Ocean Terminal, east of Lagos. As many other nations are now finding, unitization places a premium on the quality and not the quantity of berths — Nigeria could find itself with too many berths of the wrong type and in the wrong places.

The author is senior lecturer in Geography at Bedford College, University of London.

A market in Lagos: loud and lively — never dull

LAGOS

Africa's laughing, jostling, jiving city of cities

Lagos is fascinating. It is also frustrating, fatiguing, and filthy. This alliteration may describe Lagos but it does not do it justice. As Africans aptly point out, Abidjan may be sophisticated, Nairobi graceful, but Lagos has life.

It is this liveliness, this constant, swarming, confusing activity that gives the Nigerian capital its magnetic attraction. Resident expatriates will correctly tell you that once you have crossed the threshold of the first two years in Lagos, you could probably stay on for the next 200. Several have, but even those who leave are prone to return.

What is there in this city, at once repellant and endearing, that exercises this lure? The answer is perhaps that it is not an ordinary city, but a collection of several from the exotic to the barbaric, from the genteel to the criminal.

At one level it is a city of traders. Buying and selling are like twin heart beats that keep Lagos alive. When you are caught in one of its notorious "go-slows" (traffic jams), with a queue of cars often a mile long, stretching four-deep, clogging up what is supposed to be a modern super-expressway, from of the pavements, like genies, pop hundreds of street sellers, hawking chocolates and garden hoses, car seat belts and gold watches, American magazines and French golden delicious, corkscrews and large "donkey-size" potatoes.

And, despite any import bans, the Government has devised, the ingenuity of the Nigerian market mammy drops into your lap all the wonders (and trivialities) Oxford Street can provide.

There is nothing that is unobtainable in Lagos. It is merely a matter of knowing where to look and deciding how much to pay. Banned champagne sells by the crate at smugglers' stalls. Austrian laces are bought off crowded pavements and cheap Italian shoes from dusty gullies. But, the wonder of Nigeria marketing is a vast smugglers paradise–Alagba Market. Here, row after row of bountifully stocked stereophonic, video, electronic and mechanical wares compete on display, with Marantz rivalling Akai, JVC, Grundig and Sony.

The secret of the market mammy is her realization that there is money to be made in Lagos. It is this lure of wealth that in African eyes gives Lagos its glamour. Government statistics show that the city grows at the rate of 35 people an hour, or 833 a day or a staggering 25,000 a month, as millions flock to it from all parts of Nigeria and beyond.

To English-speaking Ghanians and French-speaking Camerounians, to the Beninois, Togolese and proud defiant-looking Tuareg, in their flowing caftans and indigo turbans, Lagos is the metropolis of Africa. They come there to seek their salvation, but end up in squalor, forced into prostitution or crime, begging for the few Kobo carelessly cast their way. Instead of turning rich in Lagos they are swallowed up by one of its several cities for the poor.

Lagos ranges from the old Ikoyi reserve area bungalows of the rich, with their fleets of cars and their collection of air-conditioners and videos, to the one room tenements of the poor, with families of 10 cramped together on concrete floors for the night, without sanitation. Across the now dull and dirty waters off Queen's Drive, in stark contrast to its painted mansions and manicured lawns for the elite, are the slums of Maroko, the dingy shanty township with a population of perhaps a million or more. For the majority of Lagosians home is in one of these muddy, water-logged hovels, or in those of Agege, Mushin, Oshodi or Anthony, where taps perpetually run dry and elecricity has never penetrated.

There is in Lagos, apart from a city of traders, also a city for the rich and many smaller cities for the poor.

Yet, even in its Dickensian quarters Lagos exhibits an Oliver Twist-like vitality. Disparity and desperation have together bred a class of Fagins with fingers as deft as any in literature. According to one of many uncertain statistics, upwards of 50 cars are stolen each day.

Lagos is a city of crime on occasions, whole streets have been barricaded as armed robbers have systematically pillaged an entire stream of traffic, elsewhere a complete neighbourhood has been laid bare. A certain newspaper editor has even written of gangs sending advance warning of their arrival, courteously requesting cooperaton and in return promising no further damage.

And underlying all of this is a certain admirable republican equality, senior cabinet ministers or chief justices are as prone to attack as their minions and servants.

Finally, uniting all these facets, with their contradictions and competition, is the laughter which gives Lagos the image which lingers in the memory long after recollections of sight and smell have faded.

Grinning faces, bodies doubling up with laughter and ecstatic exclamations — this is the uninhibited style of the Lagosian. Not for him the reserve of the Islamic north or the careful calculation of the east. Lagosians radiate liveliness from chaotic officers to inefficient clerks at passport counters, from taxi-driving cowboys to bored shopkeepers, there is nothing a smile cannot explain or a laugh forgive.

Karan Thapar

ABUJA

A capital idea comes true

The idea that the federal capital of Nigeria should be moved out of Lagos to Abuja, an almost empty site in the middle of the country, was conceived by the military government. But President Shagari swiftly committed his civilian Government to fulfilling the dream when he assumed power in 1979.

One of the first journeys outside Lagos the President made after his inauguration was to Abuja. This visit, he said then, was "a clear manifestation of my administration's irrevocable commitment to the speedy execution of this project".

He in fact advanced the timetable. If things go according to plan, his government will begin to move into the new city before the end of this year. It should certainly be operating from Abuja by the time the next elections are held in mid-1983.

The urgency is underlined by the fact that 2.5 per cent of the total federally-collected revenue is now devoted to the building of Abuja.

Lagos has its attractions but it is so overcrowded and difficult a city — with an unequalled crime wave, floods in the rainy season, traffic jams, uncertain water, electricity and telephones and a climate of steamy heat — that it is easy to see the need for the Government to move out.

There are political considerations too. Lagos, as well as being an international city, is part of Yorubaland, as it were. All seats of the Lagos State Assembly are occupied by members of the Unity Party of Nigeria, which is strongly opposed to the President's party in federal affairs.

Thus government men, particularly if they come from the north, feel to some extent that they are in unfriendly territory in Lagos. Abuja will be a neutral place for all political and ethnic sections of the population.

Visiting Abuja causes one to have doubts about the timetable. There seems so much to be done before what is now little more than a muddy and churned-up building site becomes a habitable city. But it is also inspiring in a way: there is undoubtedly an atmosphere of excitement and activity. Huge amounts of money are being spent.

To get there last year I flew to Kaduna and then motored the 115 kilometres south. It is an excellently-maintained road.

The scenery makes an immediately favourable impression. It is basically savannah country, with a number of small hills, some steep-sided and seemingly made from one piece of stone (like a ball set down by a giant), and valleys filled with trees. It is high enough to be comparatively cool.

There was not much to be seen when I was there: a big runway for an airport was nearing completion; a radio transmitter was transmitting; a housing development at Suleija contains the offices of the Federal Capital Development Authority and some of the construction men; a number of roads were nearing completion.

I was told that about 600m naira had already been spent: 300m naira had gone on providing water, electricity, roads and office accommodation; over 200m naira had been committed for building houses; construction had started on the 64m naira Lower Usman Dam and 45m naira had been spent on the airport.

It is difficult now to visualize, but by the year 2000, if things go right, there will be a population of 1.6 million in a bustling city. It will grow eventually to 3.2 million.

Immediately, however, activity is concentrated on what is called the accelerated district, a residential area near the future federal offices and National Assembly building. The Milton Keynes Development Corporation in Britain has been given responsibility for preparing the detailed plan for this. It will have a population of just over 25,000 and about 4,400 dwelling units.

The basic plan for the city is a crescent, fanning out from the city centre, which contains the National Assembly, government, institutional and local administrative offices, recreational facilities, the commercial centre and a national arboretum.

The residential areas extending from this will be linked to it by expressways, carrying the main traffic, and transitways for public transport.

There are plans for a series of parks and open spaces. A "mall" in the central area will provide the most important open space and will be flanked by the major public buildings.

The Japanese architect Kenzo Tange has been chosen as the supervising designer for Abuja, with three Nigerian design firms assisting. Details of the main buildings have not yet been published.

As many of the business and residential plots are to be developed by firms and individuals according to their own designs (subject to certain standards) the city will not have the unity of design that Brasilia has, for instance. There is provision made for several market areas, for Abuja is intended to be a distinctly Nigerian city.

With so much money been spent inevitably there have been allegations of corruption, and there will be more. The pessimists also say that even the most efficient construction teams will be unable to keep to the timetable envisaged.

But in spite of all this there is an air of optimism at Abuja itself. And the office of Mr John J. Kadiya, the Minister for the Federal Capital Territory, bustles with businesslike confidence.

President Shagari, during his visit to the territory, said: "It is my belief that the new federal capital will usher in a new era in the social, political and economic transformation of this country and serve as a vehicle for forging national unity and integration. All Nigerians will find a unique atmosphere for work and common grounds for national interaction. The new capital will create a cultural base which is truly Nigerian in character, reflecting the federal nature of our society."

Kenneth Mackenzie

NIGERIA

KANO

In the city where deals are settled by handshake

A sixteenth century visitor's description of Kano as a city "built with baked clay" is still recognizable in this view of the old town.

When Leo Africanus visited Kano in the early sixteenth century, he wrote: "In the middle of the province stands a town called by the same name. The walls and houses hereof are built, for the most part, with baked clay and the inhabitants are rich merchants and the most civil of people."

Although today Kano extends far beyond those ancient walls, the old city remains the thriving, throbbing and hospitable heart of perhaps the most famous of the "seven true Hausa states" of yore. Stories of early Kano and its traditional leaders, such as Dala, a chieftain of very early times, are described in a famous chronicle. He, for example, was said to have been a "black man of great stature and might; a hunter who killed elephants with his stick and carried them on his head for nine miles".

Similar claims are made today by many a northern businessman. Surprisingly, many such can merit credible enquiry. Business methods, however, do differ. Large sums often change hands in cash for instance. But assertive confidence — even bravado — still breeds on the traditions of the ancient city. These pre-date both its becoming the capital of the state of Kano nearly a thousand years back and the introduction of Islam some six and a half centuries ago.

Islam is a vital constituent of Kano's vibrant life and society. Its introduction was not at first smooth, since at the beginning of the fifteenth century, the local people blamed it for a defeat at the hands of nearby Zaria, but with the blossoming of trans-Saharan trade its establishment was inevitable. Muslim teachers invariably accompanied merchants and often were merchants themselves. Itinerant preachers are still greatly respected. And the Kano environs today represent perhaps the most significant population concentration in the whole of Islamic West Africa.

The population of Kano has long been mainly Hausa but an important minority claim descent from original Fulani inhabitants. The city itself is composed of about a hundred *ungua* (hamlets) each with its own mosque and usually a market. The oldest surviving building is probably the Emir's palace which dates from the fifteenth century. The great central mosque, largely rebuilt in 1951, claims to be the largest in Nigeria. But it is not of course just the city walls, the mosques and the palaces of the Fulani Emirs, that are steeped in history. Significantly, so too are the markets and trade routes. Islamic laws and customs are still followed.

Traditional trade routes decline

Kano city and the surrounding area have survived a turbulent history, being at times tributary to Bornu and suffering too at the hands of Zaria and Katsina. But at the beginning of the last century Kano was captured by the forces of the famous militant mallam Usman dan Fodio, who led the Fulani in a *Jihad* against their Hausa overlords. It was one of his pupils who was to become the first Emir of Kano and found the present dynasty.

By the end of the nineteenth century, however, due perhaps to the ending of the slave trade and growing European commercial control of the West African coast, traditional trade routes across the Sahara declined in importance. And Kano with them. Even so it was quite late in the scramble for Africa that the city fell to a British military expedition. In 1903 the British captured Kano and they created Kano Province soon afterwards. It encompasses an important area of 16,630 square miles of wooded savannah degenerating into scrub in the north. The light sandy soils are particularly good for groundnuts, but cotton, onions, tobacco, millet and gum-arabic are also produced. Cassava, maize, beans and guinea corn are the main subsistence crops. Livestock are to be found universally.

The British initiated the famous era of "indirect rule". One effect was that the rich indigenous culture — not a museum culture, it is very dynamic — nevertheless remained largely undisturbed by the colonial overlay. Kano city has remained renowned for the vigour of its rulers and the commercial and industrial skills of its people.

In addition to the traditional indigo dye industry — some of the dyeing pits are hundreds of years old — hides and skins and cattle on the hoof are important to the internal commerce of the whole of northern and central Nigeria. The trade in tanned and worked leather — particularly red goatskin, often mistermed "Moroccan leather", is world famous. Groundnuts, traditionally sacked and stacked in pyramids, have become a favourite subject of photographers. Dairying and meat canning are also important and the confectionery industry is growing.

Light manufacturing industry has developed, including the manufacture of steel furniture, footwear and soap. There are printing presses, an abbatoir and bone-crushing plant and there have recently been expansions in the areas of refrigeration, tyre re-treading and brewing; all these, in addition to the traditional dyeing, leather tanning and decorative metal work, pottery, mat making and tailoring.

Iron, tin and columbite are mined and there are limited uranium deposits in the south which have yet to be exploited. The single-track railway which reached Kano in 1912 connects with Port Harcourt and Lagos. The city has a major airport with international and local connexions.

In Kano today there are several hospitals and maternity clinics, a medical and dental centre, government, Christian and Muslim secondary schools. Abdullahi Bayero College, established in 1960, became a branch of the university at Zaria in 1961 but has since attained full university status. There are also schools of Islamic law, teacher training institutes, technical and commercial colleges and an agricultural institute.

The more traditional aspects and the tensions within Kano's deeply Islamic society drew world attention in December 1980. Fundamentalists from an Islamic sect virtually declared an area of the city their private republic. The sect was led by a malam, "Maitatsine" or Muhammadu Marwa, so named because he originated from the town of that name in northern Cameroon. His followers initiated a reign of terror involving the expropriation of property, the murder of opponents and attacks even on the police. On December 18, virtual civil war broke out between this sect and other Muslim citizens whom they nevertheless regarded as unbelievers. This resulted from an attempt to seize the main mosques and occupy and close government schools and other centres.

After a week of fighting, which the police were unable to contain, the state Governor, Al Haji Abubakar Remi eventually appealed to the President for help. The Nigerian army and the air force took over and within two or three days troops had put down the rebellion and order was restored. But not before 4000 people had died.

It is apparent from the enquiry report into the riots, conducted by Mr Justice Aniagolu and published about a year later, that top officials in Kano State were not unaware of the serious developments that were taking place in the city but that at high levels they displayed hesitation and indecision. In the event, initial impulses to blame foreign conspiracies for the tragedy proved unfounded — as they nearly always do in Nigeria and elsewhere.

It is often said that those who do not study history are condemned to relive it. In an ancient city, so rich in history as Kano this might seem particularly relevant. Perhaps the learned judge's enquiry into the Kano riots — to say nothing of the deaths and injuries — might have been avoided had the governor, the police chiefs and the local head of the often rather arbitrary National Security Service studied Shaikh Muhammad al-Majhili — the famous Algerian theological preacher and jurist.

Writing of Kano at the end of the fifteenth century, he commented, not only that its leaders should "cherish the land from the spoiling drought, from raging winds and dust laden storms, from thunderclaps, flashing lightning, shattering fireballs and the beating rain", but added: "Kingdoms are held by the sword not by delays". President Sheku Shagari clearly understood that. But then he is a renowned Hausa scholar.

Richard Greenfield

The author was formerly Dean of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Benin, Nigeria.